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New era begins with the passage of the Basic Treaty

Coincidence always plays a part in the choice of specific dates that are considered to mark the end of one era and the beginning of another.

Bundestag ratification of the Basic Treaty regulating intra-German relations on 11 May can thus only with hesitation be rated a historic event.

The gradual trend towards acceptance of the existence of two German states has, when all is said and done, been in progress for some time.

Indeed, it started before Willy Brandt became Chancellor, though it was he who really started the ball rolling in the direction of detente and intra-German coexistence, meeting GDR Premier Willi Stoph in Erfurt and Kassel and concluding the treaties with Moscow and Warsaw.

Even so, Bundestag ratification of the Basic Treaty manifests to the world at large that debate on the re-establishment of an all-German state, in progress since the establishment of the Federal Republic, has now finally and definitely been deleted from the agenda.

The erstwhile imperative mandate has given way to an extremely vague and distant possibility. Three days of debate in the Bundestag bore witness at times to cherished hopes of the past, but the fire of the fifties and sixties has long since dwindled and subsided.

The general public has thus been confronted for the most part with either sentimental or dogmatic glances at the past. Parliamentary veterans reviewed past battles.

In the end all that remained was the difficulty encountered by many but by no means all Opposition spokesmen in coming to terms with the situation as it now stands. The Christian Democratic and Christian Social Unions will continue for some time to be hampered by this legacy.

In setting the seal of parliamentary approval on the Basic Treaty and Bonn's UN entry bid the Bundestag did more than confirm a turning-point in policy on the German Question, however. The debate also marked the beginning of a new era.

It was heralded three and a half years ago in the Bundestag when Willy Brandt became the Federal Republic's first head of government to define the position as that of there being two German states but only one German nation.

This formula forms the basis of future policy. It is of fundamental importance for both the Germans and Europe and, what is more, for East-West relations as a whole.

Until the parliamentary division on ratification of the Basic Treaty and Bonn's UN entry bid, though, this policy albeit remained a bone of contention of the first water in home affairs.

One wonders whether this conflict in the context of a decision of crucial importance will continue to exercise a divisive influence on the home front.

As regards relations with the GDR and the maintenance of ties between West Berlin and the Federal Republic there may well be benefits to be derived from a critical approach or even outright opposition to any tendency on the government's part to adopt the line of least resistence or incline towards laxity.

Yer this country would pull more weight in its endeavours to help bring about a relaxation of tension in Europe if only the Opposition were to acknowledge the groundwork on which Bonn's future foreign policy leeway must be based. The facts are such that it has no real alternative but to do so.

The Basic Treaty rounds off the policy of concluding treaties with the Eastern Bloc. All that remains is to come to terms with Czechoslovakia. The threshold was irrevocably crossed with the signing of the Moscow and Warsaw treaties.

The Opposition allowed these two treaties to gain parliamentary approval a year ago because, in view of the stalemate in voting strength in the Bundestag, it feared that to stymie the treaties would lead to a serious crisis in foreign policy.

Since then the Opposition has voted first one way, then the other on ensuing issues. It lent approval to the Four-Power Berlin agreement, which was neither here nor there since the Bundestag had no say in the matter.

The agreements concluded between Bonn and East Berlin within the framework of the Four-Power agreement were, on the other hand, considered inadequate, though the Opposition did vote in favour of the Transport Treaty.

The Basic Treaty, however, was rejected from the start. Opposition leader Rainer Barzel had his work cut out to prevent the parliamentary party from appealing to the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe to declare the treaty unconstitutional.

Last but not least, the Opposition voted half in favour of Bonn's entry bid to the United Nations, even though admission would have been inconceivable had not the Basic Treaty first been signed.

The entire world, and certainly Bonn's Western allies, lends support to the government's detente policy. The Opposition will have no option but to toe the line – just as the Social Democrats in Konrad Adenauer's days had no option but to accept the treaties linking this country with the West.

Policy on the German Question has long ceased to be the political dynamite it once was. What now matters is to utilise the entire range of current policy in the interests of a further relaxation of tension.

This country can hardly be called on to make any more unilateral concessions. More careful attention will now need to be paid to the give and take that characterises the conduct of international negotiations.

This applies first and foremost to the foreign policy representation of West Berlin by Bonn. At the United Nations this seems to have been assured with the aid of America, France and the United Kingdom.

There have, however, already been three agreements between this country and the Soviet Union in connection with which Moscow has not initially been willing to accept Bonn's right to sign on West Berlin's behalf.

This sounds a warning note, and there can be no gainsaying the existence of grounds for suspicion that Moscow is acting hand in glove with East Berlin.

As a great power the Soviet Union is at liberty to put the screws on West Berlin as a means of exerting political pressure whenever it feels inclined to do so, whether for reasons of its own or on behalf of the GDR, and Moscow has unmistakeably brought the point home to the Federal government in Bonn.

The future development of relations with the GDR, both directly and within the framework of international organisations, could bring about a change in this state of affairs. But there is no guarantee that it will.

The Basic Treaty was a political necessity rendered inevitable by the fact that detente in Europe was out of the question until such time as relations between this country and the GDR were settled.

The extent to which the intra-German accords will be to the advantage of people

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Kurt Georg Kiesinger (left) of the CDU and Herbert Wehner, SPD parliamentary leader in the Bundestag during the debate on the Basic Treaty (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

Highlights of the Basic Treaty

The Federal Republic government recognises the territorial integrity, sovereignty and frontiers of the German Democratic Republic in the Basic Treaty.

The Treaty also recognises the right of self-determination, human rights and non-discrimination as guaranteed by the United Nations Charter as a basis for intra-German dealings. Matters of dispute shall only be solved by peaceful means.

The FRG and the GDR declare their readiness to regulate practical and humanitarian questions in the process of the normalisation of their relations. They shall conclude agreements with a view to developing and promoting on the basis of the present Treaty and for their mutual benefit cooperation in the field of economics, science and technology, transport, judicial relations, post and telecommunications, health, culture sport, environmental protection, and in other fields.

In supplementary protocols questions relating to passage over the frontier, intra-German trade and improving legal and monetary affairs were dealt with.

In the process of normalising relations as a result of the Treaty the matter of the reunification of families shall be resolved.

It was further agreed that citizens of the GDR should be allowed to travel to the Federal Republic on urgent family business.

People living close to the Federal Republic–GDR frontier should be allowed to cross the frontier with a permit valid for a day at any time.

It was also agreed in the Treaty that facilities for exchanging presents and parcels between the two States should be improved. More frontier crossing points are to be opened.

It was further agreed that both States should apply for membership of the United Nations. The Bonn representative in the GDR would also represent West Berlin.

The Treaty also provided for improved facilities for journalists on both sides.

(Die Welt, 9 May 1973)

■ THE ECONOMY

Bonn introduces stringent tax measures

Politicians, like other mortals, tend to be mesmerised by numerical targets. For long enough the restoration of economic stability has been considered the foremost domestic aim.

Prices rose by leaps and bounds yet Bonn, with anti-inflationary measures up its sleeve, contented itself with appeals for moderation.

Suddenly, though, when prices proved to have increased by more than seven per cent over the previous year, Cabinet Ministers and their aides embarked on feverish activity.

Widespread resignation in respect of economic trends has still to be dispelled, however. For political reasons the government has been unable to present an entirely effective programme of economic measures, so on the anti-inflationary front no more than "half speed ahead" has been the order of the day.

The catalogue of measures introduced by Finance and Economic Affairs Ministers Helmut Schmidt and Hans Friderichs amounts to an attempt to put a damper on the economy mainly by slowing down the pace of investment.

Industry is called to book on three scores: by the imposition of the stability surcharge, the abolition of depreciation allowances on machinery, plant and equipment and the credit restrictions intensified still further by the Bundesbank.

Share prices have taken a knocking on the stock exchanges, showing that industry has sat up and taken notice, so that the damper can be expected to prove effective as far as it is concerned.

The state, on the other hand, has resorted to a good deal less self-restraint. The cut-back in taking up credit is of no practical significance since revenue will continue to come rolling in with a vengeance.

The only policy promising to be effective would be a drastic cut-back in expenditure, yet both the Federal and state governments are none too keen on allowing unfinished public works to go to seed. What has been prescribed as a breathing-space in the course of reform does in fact amount to no more than a minimum programme.

The weakest aspect of the "new economic policy", though, is that no attempt has been made to put a damper on demand. Let no mistake be made about it, even now that the income tax surcharge level has been drastically reduced the additional ten per cent will mainly affect families and individuals with a fair amount of money on the side.

People who earn fairly well are not easy to influence in their consumer habits. When taxes go up they just save less. So from the viewpoint of stability policy the effect is virtually nil.

The failure to siphon off purchasing power is particularly alarming because the measures introduced might well add fuel to the flames of inflation. As long as demand continues unabated manufacturers will be greatly tempted to pass on higher interest rates and tax payments to the consumer in the form of higher prices.

In recent years economic measures that ought in theory to have set matters right have frequently had the opposite effect. At all events it is dangerous in the long run to curb investment while allowing demand to increase. This is virtually to lay the groundwork for a new phase of inordinate demand, in other words, a fresh spate of inflation.

Helmut Schmidt was certainly right in forecasting that the stability programme would create a shock and give rise to a hue and cry, but it remains to be seen whether the shock will have the required effect.

One can understand the government bearing the trade unions in mind and opting to spare the man in the street from having to make his sacrifice too. The trouble is, though, that not even a whole collection of half-baked measures can ensure fully-fledged success.

The Cabinet has said its piece. We must now steel our nerves and wait and see. At the best of times prices cannot be expected to stop rising for the next nine months. Even the men behind the package are bound to admit that is unlikely to have much effect before the year is out.

So for the time being prices will continue to spiral from one month to the next, and the government will be able to count itself lucky if the tempo does not increase still further.

Possibly the gravest danger confronting Messrs Schmidt and Friderichs at present is that the general public is harbouring hopes of swift success in the fight against declining purchasing power and will see its hopes dashed only too soon. Many members of the general public have funded the stability loan under a mistaken impression. The stability package could well also drop a fair number of points in an alarmingly short space of time.

Helmut Schmidt is already sounding a warning note with assertions that the effects will not make their presence felt before winter. Even this forecast could yet prove unduly optimistic.

Diether Stolze
(Die Zeit, 11 May 1973)

New era

Continued from page 1

in the two German states and enable them to meet one another more freely is a matter for hope and conjecture rather than firm forecast. No one can tell what the future may bring.

The Basic Treaty makes inordinately short shrift of the continuing feeling on both sides of the frontier that Germans in the two German states belong together.

The GDR denies the existence of any such sentiment, and the existence of two German states in practice for more than two decades has rendered national cohesion a poor thing.

Regulated coexistence could serve to overcome the debacle that the past involved in this respect. Continual efforts to ensure that it does so must be a major policy aim for the future.

Kurt Becker
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 12 May 1973)

15-point programme to fight inflation

A comprehensive fifteen-point programme was introduced by the Federal government in Bonn on 9 May with the aim of putting a damper on the country's booming economy and coming to grips with inflation that may not yet be galloping but has certainly broken into a brisk canter.

The government's anti-inflation package can be summarised as follows:

1. For a limited period an eleven-per-cent investment levy is to be imposed on all capital investment, including additions to current projects, undertaken on or after 9 May. The aim being to slow down the investment boom, no date has been set for the abolition of the levy. The Federal government is to be empowered to reduce or abolish it as and when economic conditions permit. This year industrial investment to the tune of 35,000 million Marks is expected to be affected.
2. Depreciation allowances on industrial and commercial investment are also to be abolished for an initial twelve-month period with the same end in view.
3. A so-called stability surcharge of ten per cent is to be imposed on all surtax-payers earning more than 24,000 Marks a year in taxable income, or 48,000 Marks in the case of married couples, as of 1 July. This surcharge will affect roughly one million taxpayers and the additional 4,600 million Marks in estimated revenue are to be put on deposit with the Bundesbank.
4. In order to put a damper on private building tax concessions for home-owners (§ 7 b of the Income Tax Act) are to be suspended for twelve months as of 9 May and in retrospect from 19 February in the case of projects coming under the scope of Paragraph 7, Section 5 of the Act.
5. In order to limit public spending proposed expenditure on universities and infrastructure is to be cut by ten per cent this year, amounting to savings of approximately 1,000 million Marks.
6. The Federal government further proposes to effect savings of 700 million Marks on projects to which it is not firmly committed and expects state governments to follow its lead.
7. In order further to limit spending the Federal and state governments are to cut the loans they planned to raise this year by 1,700 and 2,800 million Marks respectively. Local authorities are to cut back the loans they intended to raise this year from a total of 8,000 to 7,000 million Marks.
8. Increased revenue this year is to be desposited with the Bundesbank.
9. In order to siphon off purchasing power the Federal government is to launch additional stability loans.
10. State pension schemes are to be ordered to deposit 3,000 million Marks in reserves with the Bundesbank.
11. This year too ten per cent of allocations towards the European Recovery Programme of economic and infrastructure investment are to be axed. This will involve 230 million Marks.
12. Passage of the Restrictive Trade Practices Bill through the Bundestag is to be accelerated with special regard to the "problem of price-fixing and recommended retail prices."
13. Measures are to be instituted to promote imports from other Common Market countries, from the Eastern Bloc and from countries with low prices. Export subsidies are to be granted more sparingly.
14. Increased postal charges scheduled for the beginning of next year are to be shelved for the time being.
15. This fiscal package is to function as an effective counterpart to the credit restrictions imposed by the Bundesbank.

With the aid of this catalogue of measures the Federal government hopes to be able to siphon off some 15,000 million Marks in public and private purchasing power.

The increase in mineral oil tax as of 1 July, which will add five pfennings a litre to the price of petrol, is to go ahead as planned.

(Die Welt, 10 May 1973)

Paris greets anti-inflationar[y] measures cooll[y]

DIE WELT

France plans to wait and see h... successful Bonn's latest anti-infl... measures are before deciding wheth... not to follow suit, informed source... Paris stress in connection with Econ... Affairs and Finance Minister Va... Giscard d'Estaing's surprise visit to B...

Federal Finance Minister He... Schmidt invited his French counte... to visit Bonn, so it is claimed in Par... order to inform him in advance o... Bonn's plans in view of their rep... sions on the French economy.

Bonn's strongest trading links are... Paris, and France is even more depe... on the Federal Republic. Of Fra... total exports last year 21.2 per cent... to the Federal Republic, France... holding a 14.1-per-cent stake in... German market, as against 13.2 per... the year before. The Federal Repu... accounts for 22.3 per cent of Fr... imports.

Paris does not expect the Gi... Schmidt talks to lead to ... coordination of the two cou... economic policies. Their governm... interests vary too widely.

The French certainly have no int... of imposing further brake-pow... investment. They propose nei... jeopardise full employment nor to... their industrialisation backlog in rel... to the Federal Republic to increase.

In French industrial circles B... proposed investment levy is consider... be an extraordinarily dangerous me... In view of the growing labour short... the Federal Republic the upshot... quickly be another economic rea...

A sounder move, French industr... feel, would have been to l... government loans along French li... order to withdraw purchasing power... circulation.

As an immediate interim measure F... ought also to consider a price freeze. T... advice is keenly supported by... Paris-based Organisation for Econ... Cooperation and Development (OEC...

The French government, it wi... recalled, prolonged its price contro... with minor alleviations — for a fur... year, starting at the beginning of May.

(Die Welt, 10 May 1...

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Rainer Barzel and the CDU leadership crisis

Rainer Barzel has resigned from his post as chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group following its rejection of his proposal that the Opposition too should vote for the Federal Republic's entry into the United Nations. It is still not clear whether this is only the first step towards Barzel's complete withdrawal from the party leadership. It is however a clear indication of the crisis confronting the CDU/CSU.

Rainer Barzel refused to commit himself at the start of the year when he told the Bonn *Generalanzeiger* that the events of the six months following his election defeat would determine whether he would resign his post as party leader or not.

It is now May, the time limit Barzel set himself has elapsed but still no answer has been given to the question of what is to become of the CDU leader and party.

Barzel evidently hoped that the opposition to him within the party would die down during the winter months. "The party's course will be clearer in February after the debate on the government statement and the private meeting of our executive," he commented.

But having once failed as candidate for the Chancellorship, Barzel failed once again when he gave an unfortunate reply to Brandt's "good neighbour" speech and the CDU did not regain its composure after the private meetings of party and parliamentary group.

On the contrary, Barzel, who once told the press that his major mistakes had been committed in the field of tactics, immediately supplied fresh evidence for this bitter admission.

Against the interests of his party he forced the issue between himself and rival Helmut Kohl even though it would have been better to spare both the party and the public from these wranglings for some months.

Barzel hoped to gain an advantage by unleashing a war of attrition. He provoked Kohl, the Rhineland Palatinate Prime Minister, by stating that he could not believe that anyone would try to "creep surreptitiously" into high party office.

That was in January. When Kohl hesitated to show his colours Barzel attended the Westphalian CDU congress in Siegen and claimed he was having to deal with "snipers".

It was only then that Kohl sent his letter to the party leader. At the earliest possible opportunity he told the party executive that he would run for the leadership at the party congress in Hamburg this October — as he did two years ago in Saarbrücken.

Though nobody had doubted this, the statement led to open civil war within the party. Since then the weekends have not been long enough to record all the interviews and statements made by these two men with no particular charisma to bar each other's way to the leadership of a party with no particular hopes of victory.

Press agencies have long given up the attempt to make these two men's interminable platitudes available to a larger audience. Neither Kohl's abstractions — "I am running as candidate for a better understanding of roles in the party" — nor Barzel's not always unselfish maxims — "The party leader is always the most important factor in a reform" — contain precise information on the CDU's future course.

As a result the Opposition has appeared increasingly speechless in recent months despite the verbosity of its two matadors. Journalists in Bonn have even been heard to ask whether the CDU still exists.

The party does still exist — in some ways it can be said to have doubled in size. Barzel sets up new commissions whenever faced by a tricky problem — ten so far — and their work tends to overlap with that of existing committees.

Questions relating to property, land ownership, career training, social services, the family, the young, worker participation, the media and taxes are now being discussed by the regular and newly-appointed committees — and sometimes as well by the party policy commission which Barzel hopes will work more intensively in future in view of the lack of policy within the party.

Party administration has also been duplicated. While the hardworking organising committee plans to recommend the party congress to scrap the post of general secretary, Barzel has presented the current holder of this office — Konrad Kraske — with a double in the shape of Hans Katzer.

According to the statutes, the elected general secretary is responsible for coordinating party work. Katzer now shoulders the same responsibility. Barzel was not able to have his own way completely on this question in view of dissent within the party but it was enough to cause confusion in the parliamentary group and in party management circles.

Barzel has long looked with suspicion on the Konrad Adenauer House which is supposed to be the main centre of support for Helmut Kohl. Work there has sunk to a minimum. Only the employees committee is still busy squeezing extra concessions from the weak business manager, Herr Hennig.

The party manifestos are to be doubled as well — despite the fact that the party leadership claims that a re-examination of policy is not necessary. The Berlin Programme and 1972 election programme are to retain their validity. At the same time the CDU's Federal Committee decided at Barzel's instigation to have the party pass the findings of the policy commission, to treat the recommendation of the ten special committees as guidelines and put forward a long-term programme stretching into the eighties. The result would be five programmes — which says a great deal about the quality of the present leadership.



Rainer Barzel
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Barzel has always stressed the party's links with the man in the street and encourages grass-roots activities. Members of the party executive should, he claims, discuss party policy with voters on at least 25 days of the year.

"At the end of every year the members of the executive will march up to Barzel, stand to attention, salute and announce they have established 25 contacts with the grass roots," one CDU member quipped. The CDU's sense of humour still exists even if it has become sick to match the party's state.

If Barzel does review his position in May, he should be genuinely alarmed despite CDU successes in local elections in North and South Germany. A growing membership, displaying far more commitment than is usually found among the middle classes, is being robbed of the fruits of success by a confused and selfish leadership.

The CDU has not spoken "with one voice" since Barzel's victory at the Saarbrücken party congress. The welfare committees act as if the party is in their debt, claiming that it was not them who lost the elections.

The CSU, the CDU's Bavarian ally, has been building up its network of bases in the other Federal states. As a result it would not take long for CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss' plans for a four-party system to materialise if he gave the go ahead.

Barzel can also sense this mood within the parliamentary group. Applause and approval is becoming increasingly uncommon. "I have no desire to act irresponsibly," Barzel claimed recently. But six months after losing the elections he should ask himself whether he has any desire to act responsibly.

Ludolf Herrmann
(Deutsche Zeitung, 4 May 1973)

Barzel's downfall is a spanner in CDU works

Politics is a hazardous profession. Triumph and defeat are as narrowly divided as in sport and war. Just a year ago Rainer Barzel thought he could reach out his hand and seize the Chancellery. But with the second week of May 1973 he had even lost the leadership of his party in the House.

Leader of the *Fraktion* was a post he seemed to hold firmly in his hand even if the autumn party congress stripped him of leadership of the party.

Barzel is a man to whom few can hold a candle when it comes to tactical manoeuvring within the party, and perhaps he feels that by resigning from the parliamentary party leadership now he has improved his chances of remaining leader of the party in the autumn. If this is his reasoning it is certainly a major gamble. There is no certainty that he has improved the odds against his reelection. In politics little advantage is gained by being a good loser. The political scene is not people with fairy godmothers, but ruthless men.

In these circumstances it is of little import whether Barzel resigned as head of the *Fraktion* because of the parliamentay party's vote on the Federal Republic's entry into the United Nations. There is no political law forbidding a parliamentary party leader to continue in office after he has been outvoted. But perhaps Barzel reckoned that his failure to win the day on this vote was more than a bit of bad luck — and in this respect he is quite right.

When the final decision is taken in the Bundestag we shall see whether or not it was a case of many CDU/CSU members' going against Barzel's advice because they viewed this as a wonderful opportunity of getting rid of him. If there are fewer noes to UN entry then it will be clear that the vote on 8 May was designed to whip the carpet from under Barzel's feet.

But even if this were not the case the long-serving leader of the CDU/CSU parliamentary party in the Bundestag must have gained the impression that the parliamentary party no longer respected his advice, and thus his resignation was correct.

What the resignation means for Barzel is of less import than what it means for the CDU/CSU *Fraktion*. Firstly it shows how quickly the "union" parties have become provincial after being ousted from government responsibility.

Of course this country cannot expect advantages exclusively from entry to the United Nations, and the prospect of appearing there alongside the GDR is fr from tempting. But anyone today who feels the Federal Republic can avoid open competition and comparison with the GDR and stay out of an international body whose declared aim of comprising all nations may soon be achieved now that Communist China is a member can really not see beyond the end of his nose.

You don't have to be a fan of Rainer Barzel's to recognise that he took the right line and that his opponent's proved nothing by their vote except how narrow their horizons are.

We shall soon see that Barzel's resignation, far from clearing up the Opposition's problems in the Bundestag has served only to aggravate them. Looking through the parliamentary party we cannot see one man who looks remotely like getting CDU/CSU members to agree even to a limited extent.

Every outstanding candidate, such as Gerhard Schröder, the former Foreign Minister, is unpopular with one section of the party, and there are good grounds for believing that a colourless Floor Leader such as the former Bundestag President Kai-Uwe von Hassel would not be of service to the CDU/CSU.

With all his faults one must grant Rainer Barzel that he led the parliamentary party cleverly during a most difficult period, and kept them together.

The fact that Barzel has now been toppled by a slender majority after ten years, and that the heart of the faction against him was formed by the CSU will

Continued on page 5

■ POLITICS

Citizens initiatives are a challenge

Like mushrooms after a warm shower of rain "citizens initiatives" are springing up all over the country, mostly in fairly large towns and cities, and taking action whenever major rebuilding programmes on a whole district, construction of an underground railway or other major traffic works are on the cards or other factors likely to change people's everyday lives drastically are proposed.

They pop up and disappear just as quickly when the particular bone of contention they had to pick with the local authorities has been gnawed – when the destruction of an old building has been prevented, when the kindergarten they wanted has been opened, and so on.

These citizens' action groups establish themselves alongside the recognised political parties, and sometimes they disguise themselves as an appendage of a certain party. Observers call them "first generation citizens initiatives". But the "second generation" seems to have begun.

New groups do not confine their activities to one particular bee in the bonnet – they approach a whole field of conflict such as the environment, youth problems, pre-school education, foreign workers and the problems of the elderly.

They have become something akin to political parties themselves. They work among and with the cooperation of the general public. And so the questions asked by Hans Storck, head of the Protestant Academy in Loccum, at a meeting to discuss citizens initiatives seem justified: "Do citizens initiatives criticise the parliamentary democratic system? Are they a new form of extra-parliamentary opposition, or are they a logical complement to the present political structures?"

The Loccum conference did not come up with a valid answer. Matters are still in a state of flux and political science has done little in the way of setting guidelines. But the conference did throw light on the attitude of political parties of these private initiatives, which are still more or less confined to tackling local government problems.

Probably as a result of the unfortunate experiences they had with "voters initiatives" last November the CDU are highly suspicious of these renewed efforts of John Citizen to meddle in political spheres. At any rate the scientific assistant of the Christian Democrat provincial assembly group in Lower Saxony, Walter Oschatz, listed these initiative groups among the pressure groups in society whose activities range "from justified involvement to revolutionary fervour".

In this respect he agreed with a lawyer from the University of Gottingen who said in Loccum that these groups were like "vested interests" with no legally defined status and no basis in Basic Law, which recognised political parties enjoy.

Herr Oschatz explains the emergence of citizens initiatives as a product of our welfare State, which he feels has led to a decline in confidence in derect democratic procedure. These spontaneous groupings of ordinary people hope to bridge the gap. Local authorities, he said, regard citizens initiatives in much the same way as trades unions regard wildcat strikes!

Walter Staff (SPD), an alderman in Gottingen, on the other hand, would like to close the gap between council and citizen by allowing greater public participation in council committee meetings. In Gottingen this is already under way. At the next party political conference of the SPD in Hanover a proposal to amend the local government statute in Lower Saxony along these lines will be presented.

The FDP's representatives Torsten Wolfram, goes even further. He has said that if the Free Democrats get back into the provincial assembly in 1974 they will introduce a Bill allowing citizens to voice their opinions on local government affairs via representatives with a say on the council.

The question remains – if citizens' criticism is in this way nipped in the bud what room will remain for private initiatives?

Citizens initiatives of the second generation no longer work in isolation, but are cooperative ventures. For instance in Vloto on the Weser there is the "Westphalian Cooperation Plan" which organises wide-ranging adult education programmes, advice for autonomous youth groups and parental seminars on matters of education. This does not attempt to act as an independent organised educational movement, but simply sets out to remove fossilised old ideas from the educational system.

An umbrella organisation is at work in Heiligenhaus, near Düsseldorf, seeking out citizens initiatives worthy of support and giving them advice and financial assistance. On the board of trustees of this foundation one sees names such as Willy Brandt, Walter Scheel, Heinz Vetter and Kurt Birrenbach (CDU).

There is an association of citizens initiatives for environmental protection organised via "Aktion Gemeinsinn" in Bonn. Frankfurt's umbrella organisation covers 38 such groups dealing, as in Vlotho, with educational problems and claiming political attention. Berlin's group petitioning for more adventure playgrounds has been copied by North Rhine-Westphalia and the Catholic Student Group in Bonn is attempting to affiliate citizens initiatives with the interests of foreign workers at heart.

The Rhine-Main group seeks to uphold civil rights as contained in Basic Law with increased emancipation, socialisation and processes of education.

This is a massive political task and in Loccum it led to the voicing of the question whether citizens initiatives were an expression of a structural crisis in representative democracy, or whether perhaps political parties were losing sight of the realities.

The list of citiziens initiatives in Westphalia shows clearly the ground that parties are failing to cover. Thus Herr Storck feels that citizens initatives are an expression of the increasing division of labour in the world. But there must be rules. It is essential to know who is championing what cause. *Josef Schmidt*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 24 April 1973)

New Left groups come in all shapes and sizes

The extreme left in the Federal Republic has just ended a large-scale propaganda campaign but the clashes of ideology between the various rival groups have confused many people.

What is the difference between the "Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist Red Dawn" and the "Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist Red Flag"? What do the initials GIM and KSV mean? Who can really differentiate between all the alliances, groups and sects of the extreme left?

The intelligence service lists almost four *hundred* left-wing organisations with approximately ninety thousand members in its latest annual report but these figures are already obsolete in view of the new groups emerging and divisions occurring in the time between analysis and publication.

Simplifying the issue a little, the left-wing groups in the Federal Republic that claim to follow Marx and Lenin and aim at the dictatorship of the proletariat can be divided into two groups – those following Moscow and those supporting Peking.

The so-called Old Left formally adheres to the parliamentary system, recognises unconditionally the leadership of the Russian Communist Party and attacks Communists who reject this policy as dissidents and ultra-left-wing sectarians. The New Left on the other hand openly preaches revolution and views Moscow-style communist parties as revisionist.

The main group within the Old Left is the DKP set up in 1968 to replace the old Communist Party (KPD) banned in 1956. It sees itself as part of the international Communist movement.

Together with the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin (SEW), the Socialist German Working Youth (SDAJ) and the Marxist Student Union Spartakus the DKP has some forty thousand members.

It has its own high-circulation weekly *UZ (Unsere Zeit)*, which is to be turned into a daily some time this year, as well as almost seven hundred works newspapers.

The situation is more obscure where the New Left is concerned. It has its roots in the anti-authoritarian student movement of the late sixties and at least three groups claim to continue the revolutionaly tradition of the pre-1933 KPD.

The most militant organisation of the three is the KPD/AO set up in Berlin in 1970. The group's chief ideologists are Jürgen Horlemann and Christian Semler, both of whom were activists in the student revolts of 1967 and 1968.

The Central Committee of this tightly organised political sect which views ... as the avantgarde of the proletaria... controls a large number of sub... organisations including the Comm... Student Union (KSV), the Comm... Youth Association, the League Ag... Imperialism, the National Viet... Committee and Red Aid. The numb... activists – there are "candidates" an... as members – probably does not... three hundred.

Apart from this cadre group neo-Stalinists and Maoists there are ... Communist groups oriented tow... Peking. They call themselves the KPD ... were quick to supply the additional ... ML (Marxist-Leninist).

The first organisation of this type – ... KPD/ML set up by veteran Comm... Ernst Aust in 1968 – is also known as ... KPD/ML Red Dawn after its party ...

In 1970 former members of ... now-defunct SDS set up their ... KPD/ML in Bochum. To distinguish ... party from the original they called ... newspaper the *Rote Fahne* (Red Flag...

But this group too was subject ... division. The KPD/ML Revolution... Path and other Marxist-Leninist sp... groups develop. Tarred with the ... ideological brush is the Comm... Workers League whose "central org... like that of the second KPD/ML, is ... Rote Fahne.

While the KPD and KPD/ML ... taken over the old names, the ... moderate "Worker Basis Group" ... fighting for the reestablishment of ... (old) KPD. These groups are l... Thomas Schmitz-Bender, former ... ideologist of the extra-parliam... opposition in Munich, and delibe... compete with the trade unions ... representing the workers' interests. T... form a "united labour front" which ... longer willing to cooperate ... monopoly capitalism.

The Group of International Mar... (GIM), this country's branch of ... Fourth (Trotskyst) International, ... up a special position in the extreme ... As anti-capitalist as it is anti-St... ("We are divided from the Stalinists ... sea of blood") GIM supports wo... control of production and an ... bureaucratic Soviet-style democracy.

Although GIM is at odds with ... Trotskyist groups and numbers no ... than five hundred members, even ... including its Revolutionary Comm... Youth Organisation, it exerts con... erable ideological influence on left... trade unionists and Social Democrats ...

Continued on page 5

DU wants to be fourth Bundestag party

Two years after it was founded the "Deutsche Union", now almost forgotten by the public, intends to become politically active. Its intention is to become the fourth party in the Bundestag which Franz Josef Strauss (CSU) considers desirable.

Its primary lack is support. At its party-political meeting in Giessen on 19 May the party intends to roll up its sleeves and clearly define its aims.

"We must be decidedly nationalist-liberal," the deputy national chairman of the Deutsche Union Dietrich Bahner from Augsburg says. "We must be quite clear where we stand."

But the leaders of this party have long since been quite clear where their party should stand – right of the CDU/CSU. One member of the party executive said: "We are closest to the CSU. In many ways we are identical with them."

This might lead one to assume that the DU intends to become a sort of nationwide Christian Social Union. This is underlined by the fact that the DU's national chairman Siegfried Zoglmann stood successfully for the CSU at the last general election at the express wish of Franz Josef Strauss.

But the DU is quick to reject such ideas as untrue. The Deutsche Union wants to remain an independent party, but it does state categorically that if it makes its way into the Bundestag its only possible coalition would be with the CDU/CSU.

The congress in Giessen will be private, because, as Herr von Kleist, its business affairs manager stated, "we have not been able to find a large enough hall to admit the public." Another member of the party committee, however, revealed that the real reason was that the party wanted to be in private when it mapped out the road ahead.

One committee member has said that membership is "unsatisfactory". He ... that the published figure of 5... members is greatly exaggerated.

Siegfried Zoglmann, explaining the ... of support for the DU, says the p... express aim prior to the last gen... election was to help the CDU/CSU ... majority. This aim is now "obso... especially as CDU Chairman Rai... Barzel has always been very sceptical ... the Deutsche Union.

The party was founded in June 1971 ... Düsseldorf and was designed to cater ... FDP renegades who no longer agreed ... their party's new line. It is very doubt... whether this party can achieve its aim ... becoming a fourth force in ... Bundestag. Many of its original members ... who came to the DU via ... Nationalist-Liberal Action, have mo... on to the "union" parties. The reser... of voters for smaller parties has ... drying up for some time and it is unlikel... the DU can reverse this trend.

Werner Bollmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 3 May 1973)

■ DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Politicians discuss relative worth of ombudsman or petitions committee

Politicians are once again calling for the appointment of an ombudsman, even though the commission of inquiry set up by the last Bundestag decided there was no need to adopt this originally Swedish practice.

The commission of inquiry claimed it would be better to give the Petitions Committee a firm place in Basic Law and extend its powers. Not long afterwards the Rhineland Palatinate government decided to set up the post of ombudsman in the provincial assembly.

Similar moves have been reported from other Federal states. Hesse has already appointed an ombudsman to deal specifically with the use and abuse of confidential personal data. A large Kassel newspaper recently made news of its own when it appointed an ombudsman to deal with readers' complaints.

It is not surprising in the light of this information that the ombudsman question was discussed at the recent meeting of the heads of the Bundestag and provincial assemblies' petition committees in the Berlin Reichstag.

But the discussion demonstrated that ideas on the position of any future ombudsman varied widely and that the petitions committees – which have existed in German parliaments since the nineteenth century to deal with the requests and complaints of the man on the street – justifiably fear the competition that the establishment of such a post would bring.

An ombudsman has existed in Sweden since 1809 and his powers range from the inspection of files and the interrogation of civil servants to the right to institute legal proceedings.

The system has been copied in countries such as Finland, Denmark, Norway, New Zealand, Britain, the United States and France but nowhere are the powers of the ombudsman or his equivalent so great.

A similar post was set up in the Federal Republic in 1956 – though only in one specific sector – when the Bundestag appointed an armed forces envoy "for the protection of basic rights and as an instrument of the Bundestag in the exercise of parliamentary control".

Despite the scandals surrounding the first holders of this office, the post has become an accepted institution, is written into Basic Law and is no longer called into question.

Since 1967 discussions about the appointment of an ombudsman, among other factors, have led to an extension of the rights of the Petitions Committee in a number of provincial assemblies (North Rhine-Westphalia, Schleswig-Holstein, Rhineland Palatinate and Berlin) compared with the powers of the Bundestag petitions committee.

The Bundestag committee's powers to obtain information apply only to government information. The report published by the commission of inquiry into questions of constitutional reform criticised the fact that the Petitions Committee could conduct no investigations of its own when dealing with petitions but had to rely almost exclusively on government replies.

"If the government has to consult subordinate departments to gain the required information, a considerably amount of time is wasted, usually at least six months," the report states. "It must therefore be doubted whether petitioners are given effective help even when their petitions against the authorities' actions or lack of action are granted."

The Petitions Committee of the Berlin House of Deputies on the other hand was given powers to demand written or oral information, files and other documents in 1969. It can also demand the right to make on-the-spot inspections.

It can obtain information from the Governing Mayor, the Senate and all its members, all authorities, administrative departments and independent concerns subordinate to the Senate or subject to its control or supervision and all publicly-run corporative bodies, institutes and foundations in Berlin.

The committee or individual members of it can at any time and without previous appointment visit detention centres and prisons, sanatoria and nursing homes and any other institution in the Federal state where people are kept in care or custody, talk with any person kept there without the presence of officials and move wherever they wish in these buildings. The committee can also investigate conditions when no petition has been received.

The number of petitions sent to the Berlin House of Deputies has increased by leaps and bounds since this amendment to the law. In 1972 they totalled 1,500 or four a day. Even though no more than one petition in five is successful, the Petitions Committee helps almost one inhabitant of Berlin a day to obtain his due rights.

In view of these extensive powers, there is no call for an ombudsman in Berlin, though this alternative was long discussed in the city. It will be interesting to see what becomes of the planned Rhineland Palatinate ombudsman as the Petitions Committee in this Federal state has enjoyed similar powers to that in Berlin since 1970.

He will probably be no more than a "supplier" to the Petitions Committee as the Bill now put forward states that the Committee should be granted sole powers to submit the ombudsman's findings to the Rhineland Palatinate government for further action. The Committee is also to have the right to take over work at every stage of the proceedings.

The Bundestag and most provincial assemblies are giving priority to the petitions committees. The Bundestag Petitions Committee itself has approved the commission of inquiry's recommendation not to appoint an ombudsman and

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

to extend the committee's powers instead.

As things are now, the alternative for the Bundestag and the provincial assemblies is a petitions committee *or* an ombudsman. Unlike the "anonymous" petitions committee, an ombudsman has the psychological advantage of being closer to the man on the street. But appointing an ombudsman alongside the already existing petitions committees would only confuse people as to who had what powers.

For this reason, if no other, the government and Federal states must not shy away from making a clear decision. Apart from special cases like the armed forces envoy in the Bundestag and the data protection envoy in Hesse, there are no real arguments in favour of replacing the existing petitions committees with a system that has arisen in different historical and constitutional conditions.

Jürgen Schmädeke

(Der Tagesspiegel, 8 May 1973)

Barzel's downfall

Continued from page 3

act as a warning for whomsoever should follow Barzel that he should not cross sword with the powerful man from Munich.

Perhaps this will lead the CDU to ask themselves the all-important question whether it is more improtant for them to be allied with the CSU as a parliamentary party or whether they would do better working on their own when important decisions are to be made.

The general elections last November made the question of whether the CDU/CSU should continue their relationship less important, since the "union" parties no longer form a parliamentary majority anyway and the advantages once attendant on this partnership no longer apply.

Still, it would be illusory for the CDU to gain the impression that it would be showing greater inner cohesion by breaking off its union with the CSU. The Christian Democrats in opposition are having an even more difficult time of getting to grips with their internal conflicts than they did when they formed the government. Barzel's downfall is symptomatic of these problems.

The weakness of the Opposition is underlined by the fact that it is allowing these internal problems to come to the surface at precisely the time when the government coalition is struggling under the burden of a price spiral.

The public in this country is faced with a disturbing situation where there is no opposition in Bonn that can carry out its appointed duty of reining in the government. *Wolfgang Wagner*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 May 1973)

Continued from page 4

view of its discriminating analysis of late capitalism.

As much as the groups of the New Left vary in their origins, aims and influence, they agree on two points at least. They reject Moscow-style Communists as traitors of the working class and do not believe that the transition to Socialism will take place peacefully.

As in the student revolts a number of years ago, the self-styled champions of the working class do not look upon the use of revolutionary force as an ethical question but merely a question of historical opportunity. *Peter Pragal*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 May 1973)

Basic Law blocks much needed reform of public services

The law of the public service shall be regulated with due regard to the traditional principles of the professional civil service," Article 33 of Basic Law states. As a two-thirds majority is required in the Bundestag to amend this ruling, there is probably no danger or chance – all depending on how one looks at the issue – of any basic reform of the public services in the foreseeable future.

This fact must be borne in mind when studying the four-hundred-page report published by the Public Service Law Reform Working Committee. A narrow ten to nine majority agreed with Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher's proposals to give the 1.8 million blue and white-collar public service workers equal status with the 1.4 million civil servants.

This plan would mean an increase and not a decrease in the number of civil servants. Gerhard Schmidt, the Trades Union Confederation official responsible for civil service questions does not approve. "We are not going to stand idly by and see free workers being turned into semi-dependent civil servants," he commented.

The ten to nine majority on the working party claims that the main advantage of public service workers becoming civil servants would be the reduction by ten years of the maximum dismissal age.

The drawback is that public service workers would no longer be able to negotiate their pay deals freely and would lose their right to strike. Like the civil servants, they would be obliged to exercise moderation in their political activities.

The Trades Union Confederation as the organisation representing 670,000 of this country's 1.2 million civil servants, has put forward proposals of its own. Under these the legal position of *all* workers involved in the public services would improve so much in the course of time that the division into different categories would lapse of its own accord.

The members of the working party were in full agreement on a number of important details of civil service law. They recommended increased control on performance, a report on performance every two years, the possibility of degrading though without a drop in income if possible and greater flexibility in the rigid career system.

Their recommendation sounds good but it is doubtful whether this would lead to greater mobility in practice. Would civil servants put more energy into their work, would they be prepared to houlder more responsibility and take more independent decisions?

It probably lies in the "nature of things" that the basic guarantees – such as a life appointment, a largely fixed career, the obligation to obey orders and the civil service pension – do not encourage performance but result in the bureaucratic slowness and maladministration often encountered, a state of affairs that could never be tolerated in private industry.

The reform commission's work has probably been in vain. Even the most desirable recommendations will not be put into practice, however limited the extent of their application may be.

There are no grounds for the slightest optimism. No objections can be made against standardised public service laws as such but the trend towards increasing the number of civil servants should not be encouraged.

Except for those members of the profession who really do hold positions of power, civil servants should be allowed to negotiate pay deals – and they should also be judged according to their performance and run the risk of losing their job.

The rigid German system of privilege under which an academic degree is an immutable guarantee for a career in the higher echelons even when the applicant has no ability has always been the cancer of our society.

Ernst Müller-Meiningen jr

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 May 1973)

Prosperity without confidence – Hanover Fair keynote

Prosperity without confidence could, according to a prominent industrial manager at the Hanover Fair, be considered to be the situation currently obtaining in the Federal Republic.

The catchphrase for 1973 had already been coined at a press conference. The economy, it was stated, was in a decidedly inflationary mood without sound foundation.

Following the opening speech delivered by Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Hans Friderichs, who went smartly back on his previously expressed opinion that a turning-point in the upward trend of prices could be expected this summer, the general impression was that there will be virtually no stopping the price spiral now.

The Minister had hardly finished saying that it was "not only irresponsible but indeed short-sighted" to make use of each and every opportunity of boosting prices and incomes when the news of substantial proposed increases in postal charges broke.

Herr Friderichs deserves respect for his cool and unvarnished outline of the situation in Hanover, but, as many a thoughtful manager will recall, his much-maligned predecessor Karl Schiller seemed, at his peak, to be able to channel developments in the required direction. At times Dr Schiller seemed to be moving in the direction of a rapprochement between politics and business, something that would have been greatly appreciated. At Hanover this year the idea seemed a more distant prospect than ever.

Hanover, traditionally the scene of industrial self-expression, this year as ever bore witness to the usual crop of inept entrepreneurial comments.

In view of an export boom and balance-of-payments surplus that have both assumed unparalleled proportions, or so it would seem, there would not appear to be any reason for talking in terms of the export trade being made out to be the root of all evil.

Nor would this appear to be the appropriate time to call for government export subsidies, even though foreign competitors may be better off in this respect in many sectors.

Management, which used to sound a self-confident note in Hanover, has grown profoundly unsure of itself. In years gone by the very idea of a wage and price freeze would have been dismissed as nonsensical.

Currently one manufacturer has stated that for his part, if only for his firm's sake, he would welcome a freeze if only it were implemented uncompromisingly.

Another, speaking in private, doubted whether it was politically feasible to enforce a wage and price freeze but felt on the other hand that public discussion of the idea was a good thing, presumably so as to hammer home to all concerned the dangers that are in the offing.

In addition to the imponderables of price trends and fiscal policy the monetary situation has contributed towards uncertainty in Hanover.

The chemical industry noted that part of its turnover in the first quarter of this year, which it considered to have assumed almost boom proportions, was due to advance exports in January and February in anticipation of a further revaluation.

In a number of sectors, electrical goods, for instance, price increases are already overshadowed in importance by delivery dates.

Trade in electronics components is booming. The electronics, building supplies, chemical and plastics and iron and steel industries sounded an uncommonly enthusiastic note about business in Hanover.

Certainly, price increases are already being forecast for the second half of the year – ten per cent or so in the case of electric typewriters, for instance.

Bernd von Stumpfeldt
(Handelsblatt, 2 May 1973)
(Photo: Manfred Vollmer)

A shopwindow for European technology

For some time the Hanover Fair has been suffering from image trouble. The organisers are beginning to find the consequences of their well-meant attempts to perfectionism irksome.

In future they are going to clamp down on claims to be an all-round industrial fair. Hanover currently sets greater store by the idea of becoming a multi-sector fair.

The comprehensive shop-window idea has indeed done the Hanover Fair more harm than good. Exhibitors' expectations have been too varied. Some have not been satisfied with the crowds, others have found the numbers of visitors too much of a handful.

Yet there can be no gainsaying that the Fair is fast parting company with the all-rounder image. The organisers currently subdivide the categories of exhibits along crossword lines with horizontal and vertical clues.

The vertical entries correspond to the traditional sectors of industry such as iron and steel, mechanical and electrical engineering.

The horizontal entries stand for industries that cross the conventional borderlines, such as construction, surface engineering, compressed air techniques, power and electricals, office equipment and data processing.

an integrated amalgam of what technology has to offer.

Increasing importance is to be attached to the concept of technology in the years ahead, this year's Fair having been the last to feature consumer goods such as china and ceramics, glass, metalware, gifts, jewellery, clocks and watches, silver and cutlery. Starting next year the consumer sector will have a fair of its own in Hanover.

The range is being narrowed, and what remains will be an exhibition of capital goods, a shop-window of the technology that most people encounter at work. This certainly may well be why the Hanover Fair continues to wield its spell.

According to a survey conducted by the organisers, visitors to the Fair account for 91 per cent of the country's industry, 81 per cent of fuel and power, 84 per cent of electrical tradesmen, 96 per cent of service trades (including banks and insurance companies) and ninety per cent of local authorities.

unmistakeable, German Voment of the Fair's board of directors talks in terms of

The many intersections of lines and columns remain characteristic of the Hanover Fair and continue to be

Departing industrial sectors have had their places promptly taken by foreign exhibitors, who this year reached a new record attendance of nearly a quarter of the total number.

The all-round nature of the Fair can nowadays be considered less the comprehensive coverage of all sectors of the country's business than comprehensive, that is, international coverage of those sectors taking part.

The meteoric increase in the number of Common Market exhibitors (this year Britain overtook France for the first time as the most extensively represented foreign country) gives rise to hopes that Hanover will come to be the European fair venue par excellence.

The 1,375 foreign exhibitors and 720 foreign firms indirectly represented do not display their wares at Hanover merely for the benefit of clients in this country but also because of potential customers from other countries with whom they hope to make contact here.

Walter Baier
(Der Tagesspiegel, 26 April 1973)

AROUND HANOVER

An electric insect-killer on exhibition at Hanover consists of a fluorescent light specially designed to attract insects. On their way towards this irresistible attraction the insects pass in mid-flight through a magnetic field that is harmless for humans but has the insects drop like stones into a tray that can be opened and emptied from time to time drawer-fashion.

*

An attachment that will prove invaluable to plumbers, electricians and do-it-yourselfers consists of a special drill capable of plumbing walls to a depth of between four and fifteen centimetres depending on the material and includes an earpiece through which an acoustic signal sounds as soon as the drill hits metal – pipes, wires, struts and joists.

*

Down the mines they used to use Faraday lamps and budgerigars. The latest warning device indicating when the carbon monoxide level reaches dangerous proportions comes in three sizes and is intended for use in multi-storey car parks, tunnels and underground garages.

*

Depending on the size of the cassette used, the latest in automatic dialling and telephone index devices has a "brain" capable of memorising between 400 and 1,000 numbers. To programme the device, which has been granted a licence by the Bundespost, you need only to dial the required number once and note where it is in the index. With push-button juke-box ease the device dials the number itself.

*

Organic carbon is detected no matter how finely distributed it may be in drinking-water, waterways and sewers by a newly-developed device. Impurities can thus swiftly be tracked down to their source.

*

Shipwrecked mariners and others in need of rescue should prove easier to locate on a dark and stormy night with the aid of a flashing indicator the size of a conventional torch. On the surface its flashes, which recur once every second, can be seen over distances of up to kilometres. Even underwater the flashes can be ascertained over long distances.

*

A wristwatch exhibited by a Japanese manufacturer enables the wearer to work out at a glance what day of the week any date during the next decade will be. In addition to date and day indicators, the watch features a superfast adjustment function.

*

An infra-red cell that detects even the slightest heat emissions makes a foolproof burglar alarm. An intruder automatically affects the temperature of his surroundings and once he comes within the range of the infra-red eye the alarm is automatically triggered off. The same cell is used for satellite measurement of Earth temperatures.

*

A mobile power station weighing tons is capable of supplying the electric power requirements of a community of 15,000 people. The station is mounted on a trailer four metres long. The generator is powered by two lightweight gas turbines.

(Hamburger Abendblatt)



These flexible light tubes are intended mainly for use on buildings sites and as warning lights during roadworks. They are battery-powered and available in lengths of up to 25 metres arrangeable in series up to an overall length of 200 metres.



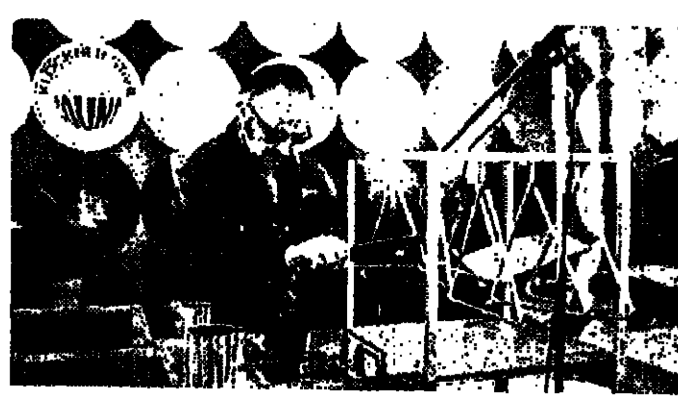
According to the Brunswick manufacturers of this tyre-shredding machine, which reduces bulky used car tyres to handy fist-sized chunks and also makes short shrift of glass, tin, paper, wood and plastic, shredded tyre-rubber, which has already been processed into resilient matting, will before long form the basis of synthetic tennis courts. Old car tyres and other bulky garbage are unsightly and far easier to store away when shredded. The smaller model polished off up to 120 tyres an hour, the larger one anywhere between 600 and 700, including commercial vehicle tyres.

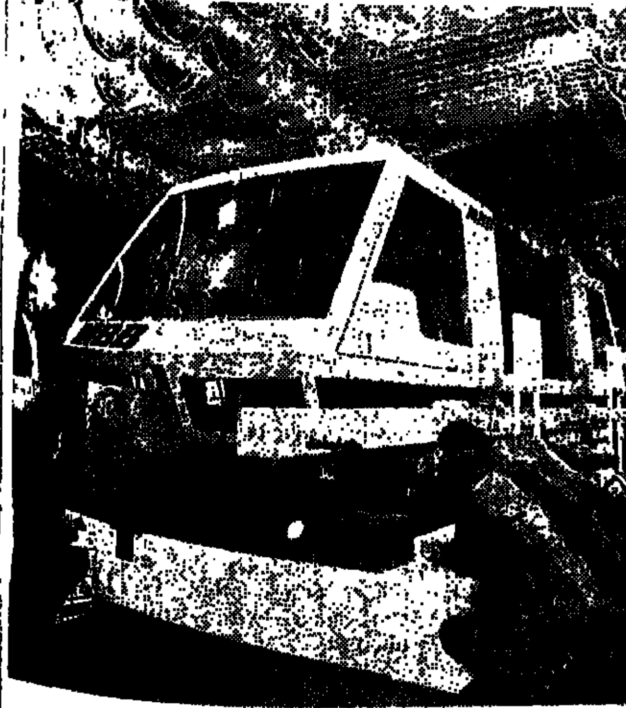
This Siemens free-standing high-performance 110-kilovolt transformer, also on show at Hanover, is compactly designed to occupy only 3 square feet of floor space.

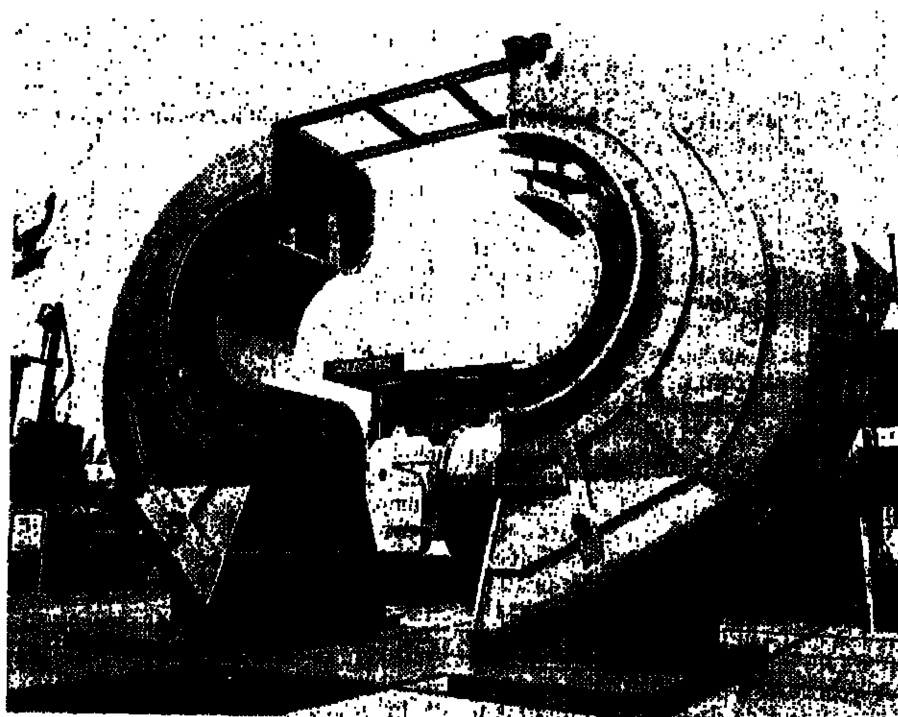
(Photos: Marianne v.d. Lancken 4, dpa 3, Siemens)



Other exhibits included this 12.5-ton load capacity container crane (left), a computerised road-safety test (above) and steel band music composed by Günther Becker for chains, tin cans, steel springs and hammer and railway track.







Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of Munich are the manufacturers of this country's first trial prototype high-speed rail locomotive (left) designed to accelerate to speeds of several hundred kilometres an hour with the aid of linear induction propulsion. The six-ton railcar "hovers" above the special track, supported on a moving magnetic field. The contraption on the right is an exhaust pipe consisting of two five-ton welded sections and designed for a commercial gas turbine.

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

North Sea oil pollution risk perturbs conservationists



Oil fever has befallen the companies prospecting in the North Sea. By 1980, they recently crowed, 140 million tons of North Sea oil a year would make Central Europe *slightly less dependent* on the Arab world.

Forecasts of this kind do not make everyone jump for joy. Marine biologists and environmental conservationists in particular note with increasing alarm the rate at which oil rigs are dotting the North Sea.

The oil rush could unquestionably be accompanied by developments that would make countries with a North Sea coastline shudder. Fears of this kind have been lent added weight by a report on oil catastrophes compiled by Professor Norman Sanders of the University of California.

It stands to reason that sinking boreholes into the seabed calls for extraordinary feats of engineering, what with storms and undercurrents and the depth of the water and the distance from dry land.

Only a single technical hitch need occur for the result to be miles of oil slick fouling the coastline, accompanied by the stench of putrefaction of marine birds and animals.

Professor Sanders was motivated by one of the gravest catastrophes ever to occur in the history of oil prospecting at sea – a disaster that occurred off the coast of his home state of California in 1969.

More than 3,950,000 US gallons of crude oil poured into the sea and devastated the beaches of Santa Barbara and surrounding towns.

It took an oil slick fifty square miles in size for anyone to notice that a mishap had occurred. The cause was a pipeline leak. The pipeline was, of course, fitted out with devices to register the slightest drop in pressure and trigger off alarms that would automatically have shut the line down until the leak was found, but on this occasion everything broke down.

The upshot was that for eight months after the catastrophe hotels along the Californian coast reported a poor season involving losses of more than a million dollars. Fishing catches were also reduced to a minimum, involving estimated losses totalling three million dollars.

Now the North Sea is noted for bad weather, and mishaps of this kind could easily happen. Powerful undercurrents sweep the Continental Shelf. A number of boreholes are so deep that the rig needs to be comparable in size with the Eiffel Tower.

Accidents have already happened in the North Sea. The oil rig *Sea Gem* sank off the coast of South-East England, taking a crew of thirteen down with it.

In the Ekofisk field, where there have been the most strikes to date, a French tug was swept from its moorings in a gale and foundered for 250 miles before sinking.

Ocean Prince, another rig, was caught napping by sand movements on the seabed and party destroyed as a result.

Far more serious accidents have occurred elsewhere. In the Gulf of Mexico a Chevron rig caught fire in 1970. It took a dose of dynamite to put the fire out but oil from the borehole gushed into the sea for a further three weeks.

A year later a Shell platform exploded in the same area. It took four months to stop the flow of crude oil into the sea. Four people died and 36 million dollars' worth of damage were caused as a result.

Technical hitches are not the only risk. Ships could quite well collide with rigs. One shudders to think what might happen if an oil tanker were to collide with an oil rig.

The South of England has yet to forget the *Torrey Canyon* disaster, as a result of *which the cargo of a stranded supertanker* oozed its way towards the coast.

British government officials estimated the damage caused by pollution of the sea alone at fifteen million dollars. Hotels and boarding house lost some two million dollars in earnings during the three years it took to clean up the beaches.

North Sea holiday resorts in this country were also worried stiff by reports last December from the island of Sylt that large numbers of dead birds covered in oil had been found.

It has yet to be determined whether the oil responsible came from prospecting or from the bilges of tankers.

Oil tankers have always been regarded with suspicion by landlubbers. In August 1886, when the world's first oceangoing tanker, German shipowner Wilhelm Anton Riedemann's *Glückauf* steamed into New York, the general public were most unhappy.

Demonstrations were staged, boycotts arranged and strikes held in protest at "the danger of the ship with its cargo of oil for the people of New York, the port and the environment."

Since then tankers have steadily increased in size and number. Sixty per cent of the cargo on the seven seas consists of crude oil and petroleum products. Fifty per cent of the world's crude oil is conveyed by tanker.

In mid-1972 the world's 3,700 supertankers boasted a total capacity of 203 million tons. In 1950 the average tanker capacity was 11,800 tons. This has since increased to some 55,000 tons.

The largest and most up-to-date of these floating jerry-cans are capable of carrying between 200,000 and 500,000 tons, and Japanese shipyards are already building tankers of more than 700,000 tons.

Collision results

When a collision occurs the entire cargo need not necessarily gush into the briny. Even tankers have a number of holds, but even so, insurers all over the world are so worried by the prospect of having to foot oil bills that voluntary agreements have been concluded to ease the burden.

By the terms of Tovalop, the Tanker Owners' Voluntary Agreement Concerning Liability for Oil Pollution, claims of up to ten million dollars are covered by payments to this fund made by the owners.

By the terms of Cristal, the Contract Regarding an Interim Supplement to Tanker Lisability for Oil Pollution, damages over and above the Tovalop limit and up to a maximum of thirty million dollars can be met. Cristal is funded by the shippers, in this case the oil companies.

What is more, Imco, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation, which was established in London on 17 March 1958 as a special organisation of the United Nations, has insisted on substantial security precautions to be taken by tanker owners.

In order to prevent explosions all tankers must be fitted out with equipment using gas with a low oxygen content. According to Esso this equipment alone costs 2.4 million Marks per vessel.

A radar system that will, for all practical purposes, preclude the possibility of tanker collisions in future is under development. It will cost an estimated 160,000 Marks a time.

Yet these sums are a mere drop in the ocean in comparison with, say, the cost of cleaning up 30,000 tons of crude oil with the aid of detergent. This mopping-up operation costs an estimated seventy million Marks.

Making security precautions of this kind mandatory all over the world is no easy matter, though. The world's 3,700 tankers sail under more than fifty different flags.

Roughly a third of the total are owned by oil companies, and as such relatively easy to bring to book. The remaining two thirds are owned by any number of private and independent operators.

The damage caused by oil leaks on dry land is easier to specify – and the risk is almost as grave. Not long ago the pipeline from Wilhelmshaven to Cologne sprung a leak near a pumping station in Ochtrup, Westphalia.

In next to no time several million litres of oil ruined pasture and arable land and poisoned wells and the water-table. With the passage of time bacteria cope with petroleum compounds in the soil, but for years farmers can only sow inferior grades of wheat.

In time, then, the soil regenerates with the aid of fertiliser and natural processes. A pipeline burst near Hümmling in the Ems country in 1960. Local farmers have only just begun to reap reasonable harvests again.

The direct damage caused by the Ochtrup leak was relatively slight – an estimated quarter of a million Marks. Subsequent expenditure will be substantially higher.

By the terms of water legislation liability is not subject to proof that damage is the result of negligence. Pipelines are always a risky business and companies that operate them are responsible for damage caused by leaks and bursts regardless of whether or not the blame can be laid on them.

Insurance cover is provided by a consortium of fifteen companies headed by Albingia of Hamburg up to a maximum of a million Marks for damage to property and rescue operations. The oil loss is covered by transport insurance.

The manufacturer of the pipelines themselves is in the clear. Although it has been proved that the leak was caused by a pipeline burst, the manufacturer is not liable in any way.

The pipelines were more than ten years old. The manufacturers' warranties run for six or nine months, which is not much longer than the time it takes to construct the pipeline link.

Horst-Wolfgang Bremke

(Die Zeit, 4 May 1973)

Price for environmental protection

Required expenditure 1971 to 1975 in milliard Marks* (estimated)	
1971	4.0
1972	5.4
1973	7.0
1974	8.8
1975	10.8

1971-1975 total 36 milliard Marks

Sewage disposal	20.2
Air cleansing	4.3
Garbarge disposal	3.7
Protecting the countryside	2.4
Noise abatement	1.7
Misc.	3.7

*At 1970 prices

Pollution is killing off more and more fish reserves

Substantial sums of money spent by local and state authorities in North Rhine-Westphalia campaigning to combat environmental pollution seem not to be having the required effect.

Over the past two years the state Fishery Research Institute in Albaum in the Sauerland region has registered a steady figure of 130 instances per annum of fish dying en masse as a result of river and lake pollution.

In reality the situation is even worse. According to Dr Harald Ungemach, director of the Institute, the number of unreported instances is at least ten times higher than the official figure and the pollution of inland waterways is growing increasingly serious.

It is impossible to say how many fish die of pollution per year. It is likewise impossible to assess the resulting damage as sufficient controls do not exist.

Fish, Dr Ungemach feels, are an important indication of the quality of water and their numbers are everywhere on the decrease. Not only industry but also local authorities and even, of late, farmers share the blame for the demise of fish between the rivers Rhine and Weser.

Farmers tip muck, sewage and silage effluent into streams, he explains. In the process of decomposition these use up the oxygen in the water and the fish slowly but surely are asphyxiated.

Environmental protection would also seem to be unknown in a number of stocking factories in the Sauerland region, Dr Ungemach notes. "For the past decade these firms have done as good as nothing by way of environmental conservation," he says.

Local authorities' attention is frequently drawn to dead fish by anglers but seem more often than not to be unaware of the significance of keeping water resources as clean as possible.

Both Dr Ungemach and his associate Jens Lehmann lament that authorities frequently make no [illegible] whatsoever to combat the [illegible] bring offenders to book.

"At the lower levels local [illegible] often fail to do a proper job and [illegible] caught between the two [illegible] pollution on the one hand [illegible] convenience of their largest [illegible] the other."

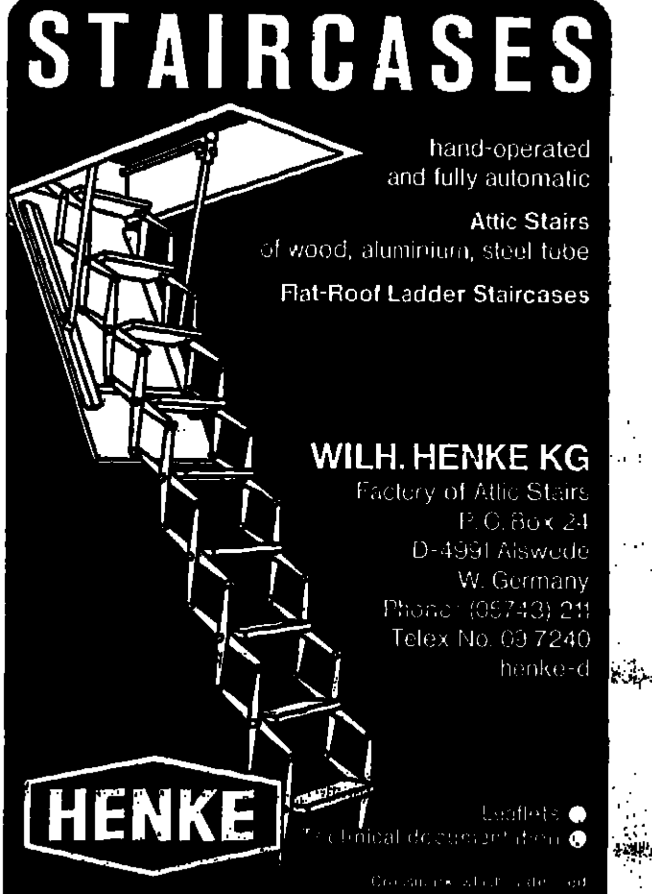
A fairly senior local government [illegible] recently told Dr Ungemach, [illegible] latter's surprise, that he could [illegible] why he was sent water problems [illegible]

The increasing amount of [illegible] is pumped into the waterways [illegible] Rhine-Westphalia has meant [illegible] other things, that Dr [illegible] confronted with entirely [illegible] diseases.

[illegible]










■ ROUND THE ARTS

Ludwigshafen ballad festival



The last ballad festival on the Waldeck was held in 1969. Almost four years afterwards participants met in Ludwigshafen. Those taking part no longer withdrew to the countryside but moved into the city. Apart from that however the switch of venue to Ludwigshafen represents a backward step.

Any future historian of the Waldeck festival will find a true reflection of the youth or student movement in Germany. It started as a festival with a strong right-wing flavour and gradually became a rendezvous for the writers of political songs.

In 1968, at the height of the student revolt, criticisms were voiced about the aesthetic ideals upon which the festival was based. The logical conclusion was drawn in 1969 and the entertaining concerts were replaced by work groups discussing social and cultural problems.

Since then Reinhard Mey, once the star and then an object of criticism on the Waldeck, has become a teenage idol, the anti-authoritarian movement has been written off as anarchistic and petit bourgeois and replaced by a large number of political groups with little interest in cultural affairs. The songsters decided to move to Ludwigshafen.

They switched to a city, an industrial city at that, but was it a city festival that resulted? Thousands of young people flocked there with their sleeping bags and camped out among concrete surroundings as they would have down on the wooded Waldeck.

They came with their guitars and banjos and met in the workshops which were as common in Ludwigshafen as they were on the Waldeck. But there was a difference – the workshops in Ludwigshafen did not discuss theory as in 1969 but were designed as intensive courses.

It was mainly the Anglo-American styles of folklore such as finger-picking and banjo-picking that were dealt with in these courses but the flamenco too was represented. But why was so much attention focussed on the Anglo-American tradition? Why was there no Greek, Arab or Indian music?

Participants sat in groups of ten, twenty or more with their graceful Spanish guitars – the type whose warm wood makes the fingers itch to play and not the heartless electric guitars used by beat groups or the battered instruments used by the traditional youth movement, with which they have otherwise a good deal in common.

However, a discussion with the Conrads, a group propagandarising for the Communist Party, on the whys and wherefores of political songs took place in an overcrowded hall and opinions soon clashed on the purpose and opportunities of demonstrations.

The workshop run by organiser Carsten Linde and the Kröher twins to deal with the history of the suppression of democratic songs – a fashionable trend at the present time – also met with lively interest.

A number of large-scale concerts were held in the Friedrich Ebert Halle. Things had changed here too. Whereas a few years ago Hanns Dieter Hüsch could never sing any of his concerts to the end, this time he was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

He was not the only one to be cheered, despite the fact that his repertoire has become even more political. Horst Koch was given the same type of welcome when he performed his songs which were not of very high standard and more reminiscent of an impromptu evening in a ski hut.

But there were also some really exciting moments. One of these was the appearance of Rick Abao, a master of agitation though possessing genuine musical talent. When his amplifier refused to function, he improvised a blues number containing lines such as "Where is the sound technician? " and had the audience breathless.

Other highlights included Irish musicians Eddie and Finbar Furey and the stars of the final gala concert, Tom Paxton and Hannes Wader. The performances of Rick Abao and the Irishmen in particular demonstrated the differences between these concerts and traditional style productions. From time to time communication was established with and within the audience, turning them into performers in their own right.

One of the seven large concerts was devoted to political songs. Apart from halfhearted social critics such as Schobert and Black, the tendency is for all exponents of political songs to see the Communist Party and the trade unions as the organisational basis for all agitation. One exception is Walter Mossmann, who cannot and will not deny the influence of Wolf Biermann. Mossmann was one of our most interesting singers as early as the sixties. In recent years however he gave up writing songs and only returned to the genre in the last few weeks. His concert revealed all the ideas he has had recently. His songs are more complex and more poetical than those of the Conrads for example. Mossmann does not present any solutions but facets of a situation, even contradictory facets, that are intended to prompt listeners to form their own conclusions. Among the finest and most successful moments were those with an indescribable atmosphere such as when amateurs came together for a jam session and made music with great emotion and concentration and without any pretensions.

Where did all these young people come from, these charming Romantics who represent a new variation of the youth movements of the twenties, of the hippies and the youth of the pop era?

What is the source of this new inwardness – this Romantic *Innerlichkeit* – which grants frantic applause to the weakest of the songs based on James Taylor and manifests itself in Hannes Wader's latest works and in the Baudelaire songs of a newcomer?

An empirical survey is still to be made, but the decisive factor on the political level is probably the disintegration of the extra-parliamentary opposition, disillusionment about success in the social struggle and the split between political activity and aesthetic pleasure.

Large sections of the left wing look on art with suspicion – one reason is that it does not directly alter social conditions, a fact that any left-wing person should have realised.

The vast majority of the young evidently have a strong need for their own culture, one that is specific to the generation, but art has left them in the lurch.

On the cultural level it is probably the decreasing standard of pop music in the past two years that has encouraged the revival of both folklore and tradition. Nostalgia for times long gone is not the only explanation.

The ecstasy of beat has been replaced by the uninhibited merriness of Dixie on the one hand and the softer romanticism of folklore on the other. There is no such thing as an audience – it consists of extremely different individuals. This makes conversations so random that it is not surprising that there are different views about what people as a whole want.

But the young and very young must be observed as they listen to their guitar-playing friends at folklore events in clubs or in the open air, the traditional hippy rendezvous.

Beat permits the articulation of aggression while folklore transmits a feeling of wellbeing. Increasing brutality in the everyday world, ending in architecture and town planning and beginning in the stress engendered by the industrial society, fosters the need for a tenderer and more pleasant counterpart. Psychoanalysts may describe this as a yearning for the maternal womb. The people today must not be ashamed about feeling the need.

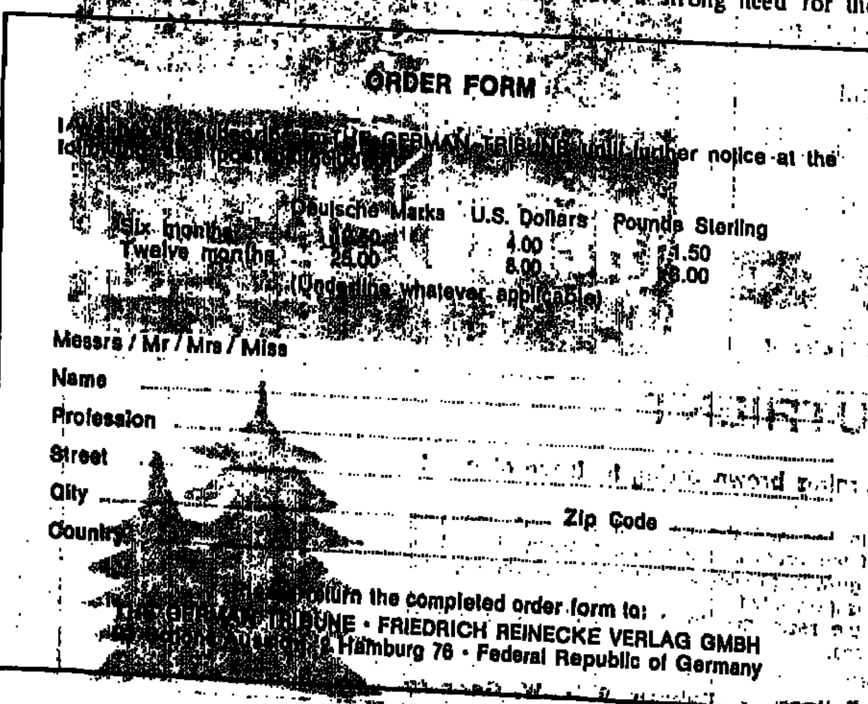
Two other points must be raised. First of all no generalisations should be made. Some differentiation is to be made between the yearning for emotional tenderness and the simultaneous recognition of the causes of their inhibitions on the one hand and, on the other, the suggestion that intact emotions can be materialised in harmony without it. This is what distinguishes Hannes Wader from Reinhard Mey.

Secondly, there is the music. It is obvious that there are two sides to it, but what distinguishes the music is giving people the courage to go to war, [illegible] which gives them the power to [illegible].

When is singing no more than a flight from civilisation into a dream world and when does it preserve integrity? [illegible] supply few answers to questions of this type despite the recently [illegible] theories of Hanns Eisler.

Thomas Ro[illegible]

(Frankfurter Rundschau, [illegible])



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Rules changed for Marburg Amateur Film Festival

Filmteam Marburg, the organising committee of the fifth International Amateur Film Festival to be held in the town between 17 and 21 October, has announced a basic change in the rules of this competition, the only one of its type in this country.

In future there will be no preliminary selection of films and all films entered will be shown to the public. The jury will consist of amateur film-makers from six different countries. During the festival they will judge the one hundred or so entries.

A spokesman for the festival organisers has pointed out that all entries must have been received in Marburg by 15 October. Anyone interested may apply to the Organisationsbüro der Amateur-Filmfestspiele, 355 Marburg/Lahn, Georg-Voigt-Strasse 37.

(Die Welt, 2 May 1973)

Art at Herrenhausen

This beautiful 250 year-old antique from Brunswick is on show at the Herrenhausen Art Fair, which runs parallel to the Hanover Trade Fair.

(Photo: Ka[illegible])

■ THEATRE

Poor re-adaption of Behan's *The Hostage* at Hamburg

Twice the premiere was postponed, for a total of ten days. Quite obviously the Hamburg Schauspielhaus had something quite extraordinary up its sleeve. It was the German-language premiere of Brendan Behan's three-act play *The Hostage* re-adapted by Joan Littlewood, the famous avantgardist from the London Hackney Theatre. Joan Littlewood 'discovered' Brendan Behan, who at 41 in 1964 died of diabetes and alcohol.

Behan, an Irishman and onetime IRA-member who was for a time in prison for political reasons took a good swipe at all types of jingoism in his play. According to Behan the Irish rebels were just swaggering amateurs at the game of war. Their victim is "the little man". The whores and male prostitutes in the prison where the British soldier Leslie is kept have more humane feelings than those who are dedicated to the revolution. They themselves know the ravages of fortune.

It is hard to understand why this play, first performed in 1958 with such international success, had to be re-adapted. For all that Joan Littlewood has show great talent in making contemporary the variegated, vital qualities of this very human play. No one would have guessed that she would do it so drastically.

She has made the play vulgar with curses, insults and not particularly witty jokes – one member of the cast has to run off to the toilet in a hurry. And she has reduced the superb characters of the play to polemical types.

Joan Littlewood turns a comically snappy IRA captain into a Catholic hypocrite, a male prostitute into a tranvestite and priest at the same time. An IRA volunteer becomes a frightened rabbit.

Finally Joan Littlewood has one scene played through a megaphone. "This is the police". Shots ring out, plaster falls from the walls, the hostage is dead (accidentally). No one ordered it, but everyone is guilty. That is how it was in Brendan Behan's version. Thanks to Joan Littlewood this fact is left in no doubt.

Peter Zadek produced the play in Bremen a few years ago as a musical. The many songs in the play, characteristic of the song-loving Irish, induced him to do this. Ulrich Heising's production in Hamburg, however, lacked bite. Co-producer Karl Kneidl has built up tensions with the view of involving the audience. The decor involves a connection from a box in the auditorium on to the stage clearly emphasising the connection between the public and the action on stage. The play emphatically says: "The action on stage concerns you all."

If the action had been more to the point that would have been more effective. Everything stumbles. Everything slides about. The insipid songs were hummed away as if just interpolated.

The cast tried very hard to give all they had to the production, but nevertheless it was dull.

The leads were well played with Maria Becker as the Queen of the Harlots. She was powerful and precise but without élan, and Bernard Minetti as the knarled Irish veteran Pat stood grinning in doubt.

It was in fact a sad theatrical event. Instead of a fine play we were given a re-adaption which was very mediocre and a production that frittered away the talents of a fine cast.

Gerd Klepzig

(Die Welt, 2 May 1973)



A scene from the Hamburg production of Brendan Behan's *The Hostage*

(Photo: Rosemarie Clausen)

GDR poet's FRG prize

Reiner Kunze, a poet living in the German Democratic Republic, has won this year's Bayerische Akademie literature prize worth 8,000 Marks.

Kunze was born on 16 August 1933 in Ölsnitz in the Erz Mountains. He at first studied journalism. He began his poetic writings in the early fifties. His lyric poetry *(Die Zukunft am Tische,* 1955) followed the party line faithfully. But there was a noticeable deterioration in the relationship between Kunze and the leaders of the SED.

Many of his poems were suppressed, and in the end scarcely any went for publication. Kunze had to translate works from Czech to earn his living.

In 1968 things looked up for him – with a warming of relations with party bigwigs came the publication of eight of his poems – expurgated – in the anthology *Saison für Lyrik*, published by Aufbau Verlag.

But in the spring of 1969 when his poems were published in their entirety by Rowohlt Kunze once again fell into disgrace with the SED. At the moment his works are not published in the GDR. He has already received an honour on this side of the Wall – in 1971 he received the Jugendbuchpreis for his children's book *Der Löwe Leopold*.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 April 1973)

DBK decides not to unionise

DBK, the national association of graphic artists, with a membership of something like 8,000, does not for the present intend to become unionised through the special branches of the Trades Union Confederation, DGB.

This decision was taken by the first national conference of delegates of DBK recently in Bonn. The debate lasted several hours and was often turbulent. In the end the majority of the 69 delegates decided that the final decision on whether to join the artists union or IG Druck und Papier (printing and paper) should be postponed until after further negotiations with these unions.

Thus no decision is likely to be made until toward the end of 1974.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 19 April 1973)

A 1923 Toller play still has point

Ernst Toller has become a byword more because of Tankred Dorst's play about him than on account of the plays he himself wrote. Dorst was interested in Toller's political attitudes, his association with the Munich Soviet Republic for which he served five years in prison, rather than his poetry.

He served his prison sentence at Niederschönefeld and doggedly refused to accept a pardon. During his sentence he wrote many of his works for the theatre including *Der entfesselte Wotan* (Unchained Wotan) in 1923.

The play is concerned with a hairdresser who, fascinated with the words *O Urwald . . . O Erde* (O virgin forest . . . o earth) spoken to him by a stranger, decides to establish a movement, a society for emigration with the aim of settling in Brazil.

The boundless tract of land (virgin forest) which is to be the basis for the society is a pure swindle. But the idea was so full of power that within a short space of time a mass movement was set in motion blindly trusting the words of their leader. The ascent was steep and the letdown sudden. When the Brazilian government disclosed the details of the swindle everything about him was shattered. Wotan, the name of the hairdresser, is arrested for his own safety but not until he had securely triggered off the legend of the stab in the back.

The play raises questions that are difficult or impossible to answer. For instance, does Toller mean Hitler in his piece. There is no evidence from Toller that this was so. It is also valid to ask how far Toller used the language of expressionism in his play, the language he used in his poetry, to penetrate into the meaning of the events of his time.

But the play's director, Günter Vierow rightly did not concern himself with these philological questions. In his production he also avoided making comment on Toller's vision of the Nazi calamity that was to occur ten years later. Vierow also withstood the temptation to deck Wotan out as Hitler.

In this way he was able to free the play from historical details. He made it urgent and contemporary in the sense that Toller was out to show people could be misled. Hitler was only an example, but not the last.

By maintaining such a distance from the historical Vierow was able to create a breakthrough into Toller's symbolism. This was not limiting but cast a legitimate light on history. Surprisingly the play turned out to be a theatrical criticism of ideology. In sharp images it was shown how the masses can be swept forward by empty phrases or by just words such as *O Urwald* or *O Erde*. It is clearly shown how mere words can lead to catastrophe.

In this Vierow was within inches of Toller's ideas. He showed that in the modern world he was not so concerned with ideas as with the observation of people. He set the piece in a typically bourgeois milieu with snow-covered pines and the rest. The action takes place between the crowing of cocks and the singing of thrushes in the month of March. Wilfried Minks exhibits with his naturalistic settings not so much the world of nature but the inner world. The snow-covered pines are indicative of a German world, governed by feeling and because of that susceptible to ideas.

Towering over this environment is a party room lit with neon lights. These represent the forest and at the same time alienation from the forest.

The highlight of the evening was Fritz Schediwy who played Wotan. He gave a superb performance showing all the possibilities of such a character: the magnetism of Wotan and at the same time his total emptiness.

And Sonja Mustoff should also be mentioned. She played the male role of the salesman Schlierm and gave the part its full theatricality.

Erich Emigholz

(Bremer Nachrichten, 30 April 1973)

A scene from Tankred Dorst's production of *Der entfesselte Wotan* by Ernst Toller

(Photo: Chr. Scheinberger)

■ MEDICINE

Clinics examine people's reaction to weather

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Recent investigations have exploded the myth that the elderly feel the effects of the weather while children remain unaffected. Babies and infants do react to the weather – they are restless, tend to cry, do not want to play, are tired but cannot sleep properly.

About one third of the population of Central Europe suffers from the weather – one in four of them are under twenty, one in three between twenty and fifty and almost one in two at the critical period of the change of life. Sensitivity decreases once again in the over-sixties age range, affecting only thirty to fifty per cent.

While women are more likely to be affected than men up to this age, the frequency and intensity of irritation caused by weather approach each other in old age.

Up-to-date statistics on sensitivity to weather have not been available so far. A number of psychiatric hospitals, meteorological stations and mathematical institutes therefore decided to conduct a joint series of biometeorological tests. Dr Volker Faust of Basel University Psychiatric Hospital recently spoke of this venture at a congress taking place in Bad Ragaz.

Sensitivity to weather is not a disease but a good indication for the momentary state of the organism's reactions. Among the characteristic complaints are fatigue, ill-humour, reluctance to work, restless sleep, difficulties in getting to sleep, lack of concentration, nervousness, pains in the area of a mended bone fracture, shortage of sleep, increased forgetfulness, increased tendency to make mistakes at work, disorders of the circulation, pains surrounding operation scars, general indisposition and depression.

All other disorders of a mainly vegetative nature such as sweaty hands, shivering fits, lack of appetite, diarrhoeia, a decreased sense of hearing, smell or taste and an over-sensitive skin play a more minor role.

Rheumatic complaints of circulatory disorders increase with old age. Nervousness, ill-humour and reluctance to work is most commonly found among the middle-aged.

Symptoms of stress such as headaches, insomnia and palpitations reach their peak in the under-forty age group when people face greatest professional strain. A second peak is sometimes recorded in old age.

One interesting feature is that there is a drop in symptoms in the forty to fifty age range, especially among men, though they still have to face strain in their work at this age. Symptoms increase as the change of life is approached.

When a person is in his forties he has probably reached a professionally and socially stabilised period which is not yet clouded by the complaints of old age. Fatigue, the most common symptom of sensitivity to weather, occurs with equal frequency in all age groups.

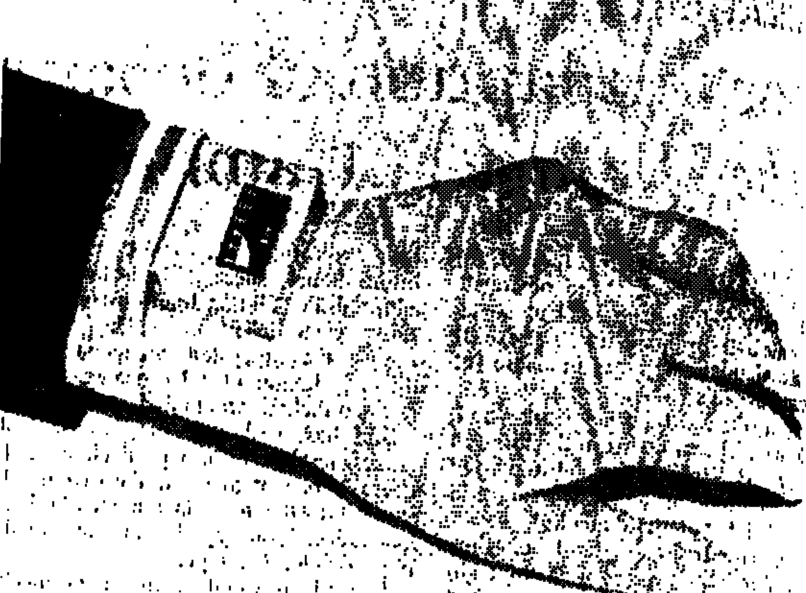
Even those people who do not think they are affected by the weather react to its influences. They normally display the same symptoms though both intensity and frequency is so low that they do not usually feel particularly affected by them.

Half those persons sensitive to the weather, yet healthy in all other aspects, can feel a change in the weather coming on anything up to two days before it occurs.

Some of the people sensitive to the weather suffer the same specific symptoms throughout the whole year. Otherwise persons are affected mainly by the spring, because of the unchangeable weather during this season, followed by spring, summer and winter, which poses no problems in this respect.

More than half feel irritated by a sudden change in the weather and believe that the geographical position of their home is of considerable significance to their weather sensitivity.

Marc Auerbach
(Der Tagesspiegel, 3 May 1973)



The wristwatch ECG

This 'wristwatch' wouldn't give you the time of day – in fact it is a miniature electrocardiogram worn on the left wrist. It picks up the heartbeat from two small electrodes strapped to the chest and is ideal for convalescent heart cases and athletes in training. Powered by a 9 volt battery it weighs just 200 grams. (Photo: ...)

Cardiac expert claims personality factors contribute to heart attacks

Doctors no longer entertain any doubts about whether or not physical factors encourage heart attacks. High blood pressure, an increase in certain blood fats, excess weight, diabetes, smoking and lack of exercise are all danger signs.

But up to now doctors have not reached any agreement on whether certain traits of character encourage heart attacks. A psychologist has now collected all medical works relating to this subject and concludes that character can have an important contributory effect on heart attacks.

Wolfgang Langosch, a member of the cardiological long-term study research team at the Bernried Hospital for Diseases of the Heart and Circulation, has ploughed through 107 English, French and German articles and summarised their contents in a seven-page study published in the medical journal *Sexualmedizin*. His article contains previously little-known facts that will interest both doctors and their patients.

Langosch states that there is a tendency nowadays to classify people into groups depending on character – repressers and sensitisers. Repressers normally avoid threatening situations while sensitisers take the bull by the horns.

Repressers have a zany sense of humour while sensitizers prefer dirty jokes and display an aggressive type of humour. Repressers fit into society better and are usually extremely self-confident. "Experience indicates that patients suffering heart attacks usually come into the represser category," Langosch reports.

Heart patients also have above-average representation in other character groups.

- An American report describes the type of person liable to heart attacks as frivolous, soft, affectionate, inhibited, tense, friendly, outward-going and impulsive.
- Another report describes the type as happy, good-natured and with a tendency to feelings of guilt.
- Reports always indicate that patients had been working hard for success before their heart attack and that they were extremely dependent on performance. They were often found to be unable to relax.
- Many patients suffering heart attacks always expect to be respected by other persons. But they hold themselves in check with their bosses and tend to let their anger become bottled up.

Danger is always highest for persons in a "nutcracker position" at work. By this scientists mean skilled workers and intermediate management who have to act as middlemen between two sides and fill two varying roles.

Persons who can express themselves in their work and are happy with their position run less risk of a heart attack. But patients coming into this category tend to suffer more from professional strain than from difficulties within the family. This can also indicate that they work off domestic conflict when at their place of work.

But Langosch warns doctors against thinking purely of types in future and classifying persons as risks or non-risks. "The results cannot be interpreted as a simple chain of cause and effect in stresses. "Most of the findings are hypothetical and must be substantiated by further studies." *Leos Schöne/PAM*
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 May 1973)

Experimental psychology congress discusses stress

Human guinea-pigs with detectors attached to their bodies to register pulse, respiration and resistance are shocked, insulted and subjected to high levels of noise but they still try to give their best.

They suffer and sweat for science, for experimental psychology, a discipline which is turning more and more to a common phenomenon of our times – stress. A congress of experimental psychologists held at Erlangen from 15 to 18 April revealed what the human organism could withstand.

The scientists ensure that the experiments are as realistic as possible. "It is often suprising that guinea-pigs turn up for our experiments," Wolfram Boucsein told delegates.

One group was asked to solve a number of anagrams. Unknown to them a number of impossible anagrams were inserted into the list. The head of the experiment took the group to task for their poor performance.

The outcome of this test was rather nebulous: "As far as the preparedness for reaction is concerned, it was shown that stress was a complex and not one-dimensional characteristic." In other words, psychologists do not agree in their views on stress.

Ruth Kaufmann of Berne was able to demonstrate how noise can increase concentration. She found that noise restricts the field of perception, permitting better performance in a limited sector.

If a person has to operate complicated machinery, he is able at first to pay just as much attention to the minor parts of the process which occur on the periphery. In the experiment these normally took the form of flashing lights which indicated that a lever or pedal should be operated.

When noise increases, people tend to overlook these peripheral signals more and more. But they are far more attentive to what happens right under their nose.

Despite this increase in performance, stress does not do anyone any good. Tests conducted immediately after this experiment revealed an increase in aggression and poorer health. An electro-cardiograph also revealed the stress on the circulation.

The congress paid little attention to the long-term consequences of stress as psychology has to depend on the medical records of stress patients in this respect. Psychologists do not wish to conduct such long-term experiments on human guinea-pigs for obvious reasons.

But short-term experiments have already raised a number of new questions. There is still no answer to why people differ in their mental reactions for instance. Doubts have also been expressed about whether changes in skin resistance and higher pulse and respiration rates are reliable indications of stress.

Erdmute Bauer of Freiburg claimed that the links between mental pressure and physical functions are not always obvious. Another doctor attending the congress did not believe that mathematics had developed enough methods to allow satisfactory analysis of the complex statistics compiled by experimental psychologists.

But industry is better equipped to deal with the demands of experimental psychology. A large number of firms exhibited their range of stress apparatuses at the congress.

Among them was the ROE 74 Shock Generator with a maximum voltage of 100 micro-amperes and a year's guarantee. The equipment can be supplied within four weeks and represents no danger to patients or guinea-pigs.

Volker Myslewlec
(Die Zeit, 4 May 1973)

■ EDUCATION

German students may go to American universities

Christian Schwarz-Schilling, General Secretary of the Hesse CDU, has posed a real problem for the Atlantic Alliance after finding a feasible solution for easing overcrowding at universities in the Federal Republic.

During a recent visit to the United States he found that there were 680,000 vacant places at American universities as a result of rapid expansion recently and the often dramatic shrinkage in the academic labour market, especially in sectors such as education and aeronautics.

American universities are crying out for students while those in the Federal Republic are imposing more and more entry restrictions, though more or less fairly, and turning students from their doors.

America would like to improve its balance of payments with the Federal Republic and earn more Marks. It could achieve this end through the service industry of training students.

Schwarz-Schilling estimates that a German student at an American university would cost seven thousand Marks a year, plus the four hundred Marks a month the student himself would have to raise to keep himself.

Each student in the Federal Republic costs between 19,000 and 22,000 Marks though this figure includes both building and teaching costs while the figure for America only covers running costs.

Schwarz-Schilling states that he will soon publish a report presenting a more detailed survey of the situation. But even if exporting students does not represent such good business for the Federal Republic, the idea still has its attractions.

The old question of recognising each other's qualifications could pose difficulties. The Americans would require school-leavers from this country to sit a slightly modified entrance examination and probably accept the overwhelming majority of applicants. The students could take their final examinations in the Federal Republic as they would later be working here.

The intermediate examinations sat in the American universities form the only snag as they would probably not be recognised when the students returned to this country.

Up to now at any rate the Federal Republic's universities, in common with those in other European countries, have refused to recognise certificates for these intermediate examinations in view of the varying standards within the American university system.

But this also applies to qualifications obtained at universities within Europe. Ralf Dahrendorf, the Common Market Commissioner for Education, faces a good deal of work in this sector but the final outcome could make it all worthwhile.

Problems concerning the recognition of other countries' examinations play a major role in all courses of study abroad. This country's Academic Exchange Service is well axquainted with the snags.

Students do not wish to study abroad if no allowance is made for the terms spent on these courses. They prefer to waste this time in their own country by trying to evade the entry restrictions and making their way through our overcrowded universities.

If Schwarz-Schilling's proposal is dealt with immediately and without the usual red tape – the American Council of Education is standing by at the ready – and if universities in his country realise that they could ease overcrowding by displaying a little more readiness in recognising American qualifications, a large number of would-be students from this country could be helped as could the American universities.

But even if the time spent in America is not reckoned as part of a German student's course of study is there not some point in a young person spending one or two years learning to master an international language at an academic level?

Christian Schütze
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 May 1973)

German-Polish text-book conference wants to work faster

A communique issued by the third West German-Polish School Book Conference in Brunswick states that the historians and geographers involved in the project aimed at achieving a more objective depiction of each other's country in textbooks wish to work faster in future.

Sixteen Polish academics took part at the recent three-day conference along with some 35 teachers, writers and textbook publishers from the Federal Republic.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 April 1973)

German into English translations conference

Official sources in the Federal Republic are being sought to finance the translation of works from English into German and vice-versa, it was announced recently in London, at the end of a two-day seminar involving the London Goethe Institute and the National Book League of Great Britain, representatives of famous publishing houses, translators and literary experts from both countries.

They met to discuss ways and means of making good the lack of translations, particularly of German works into English.

A working committee, including translator and journalist Klaus Birkenhauer, the translator of James Joyce Klaus Reichert, and Klaus Schulz, the head of the London Goethe Institute, plans as a start to work out a clear programme to provide a basis for discussions with official bodies in the Federal Republic and Britain.

(Die Welt, 26 April 1973)

50% of schoolchildren smoke

Fifty per cent of schoolchildren in the Federal Republic smoke regularly or according to examinations conducted by a research group at the department of social and labour medicine in Heidelberg.

Among schoolchildren who regularly smoked heavily, one third had clear symptoms of chronic bronchitis. Respiratory functions were however not yet impaired, the group found.

(Kölner Stadt Anzeiger, 23 April 1973)

■ TOURISM

Weser valley – a traveller's delight

Few cities in this country have a country side so various as the surroundings of Hamelin, the central point of the Weser valley. The city itself has no difficulty in fascinating the thousands who visit annually. The fairy story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin who on 26 June 1284 during a church service abducted away 130 children from the town is world famous. Today the traffic moves continuously through Hamelin's busy streets past the Marriage House, built between 1610 and 1617 as a reception building for burghers' weddings and the Collegiate Church.

A view from any one of the heights along the valley in which the legendary town of Hamelin lies will reveal on either side hills and plains that accompany the River Weser on its journey north to the North German plains and then the North Sea. Quite close to Hamelin among the jagged heights their are small delightful hamlets to be found as well as woody slopes.

To the north there is the wooded Süntel, horseshoe-shaped. And one of the most rewarding heights in the vicinity is the Hohe Egge which the poet Hermann Löns held in such regard. From here a marvellous view of the Weser valley can be had. From the stone tower on this height the panorama stretches from the Harz to the Teutoburg forest and to the Steinhuder Lake. A walk along the ridge of the Suntel along the previous Hanover-Hesse boundary in fact, offers splendid views including the Hohenstein, where mountaineers have a chance to try out their skills.

Near Oldenburg in Hesse the Süntel passes through the Weser hills to the Porta Westfalica, the enormous statue to the Emperor Wilhelm.

From the ridge of a lesser height it is possible to see the Schaumburg which has recently been rebuilt. The fortress was built in the eleventh century and was a residence of the counts of Schaumburg who have close connections with Schleswig-Holstein. One hundred and sixty metres over the Schaumburg on the edge of the Weser hills there is Pachenburg offering a panorama of 23 twists and turns of the River Weser and 136 hamlets.

On the other side of Hamelin there is the Osterwald with deep-cutting vallies and steep rising rocky heights. Here there are 3,500 acres of forest land bordered by a thick wall where pure-blooded bison are bred. The hunting lodge near Springe has memories of the times when the kings of Hanover hunted there.

South from Hamelin there is the Emmertal which on the way to Bad Pyrmont passes Hämelschenburg, a castle of the Weser Renaissance built between 1588 and 1612 in the shape of a horseshoe. The mineral waters from Bad Pyrmont are ancient and famous and were well known for their curative qualities to the early German tribes.

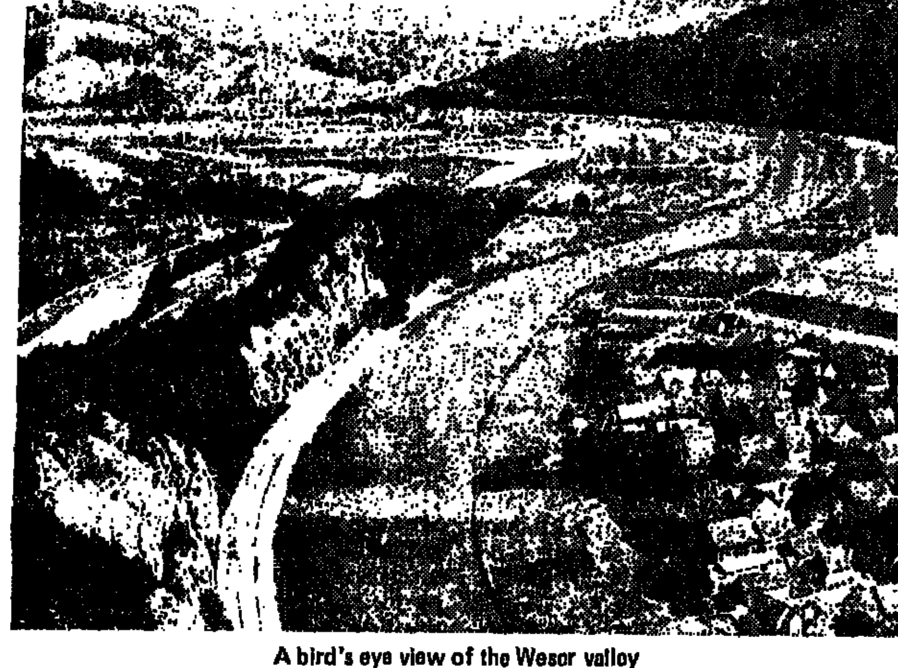
Bad Pyrmont is today a spa with a promenade lined with linden trees, fine lawns and flowers of all colours. The spa also has a famous plam garden.

Near Lügde the Pyrmont valley, ends near the spa of Schieder. Here there is the Hermannsberg, usually called Herlingsburg.

Upstream from Hamelin between Bodenwerder and Polle there are lovely rock formations in the countryside. In Bodenwerder, a town surrounded by hills the fabulous Baron von Münchhausen was born in 1720, the man who wrote of "wonderful travels and adventures."

The east bank of the Weser, made romantic by the rocky crags of the Vogler, is indicated in many travel guides with two stars because of the Zimmertalskopf with extensive views and the Erbesnacken with splendid panoramas of the whole Weser hills. And on the southern summit of the Ith there are the Lüerdisser crags.

Hermann Ulbrich-Hannibal
(Der Tagesspiegel, 29 April 1973)



A bird's eye view of the Weser valley
(Photo: Dierssen/freigeg. V. Nds. Min. f. Wirtschaft und Verkehr)



The old town of Hamelin with the Marriage House and the timbered houses round the Pferdemarkt
(Photo: Opitz)

Porta Nigra – Trier's marvel of Roman building

Porta Nigra, Trier, one of the most well preserved examples of Roman architecture, as famous as the Colosseum in Rome and the Pont du Gard near Arles, has been saved from certain decay by a five and a half year long restoration programme at a cost of two million Marks.

At Easter the monumental building, a showpiece of Roman workmanship north of the Alps, will again be open to the millions of visitors who come to Triers from all over the world.

The Porta Nigra is 30 metres high and 22 metres deep. The front measures 36 metres long and is an impressive symbol of Roman might and power.

The black front of the Porta Nigra owes its colour not to the quality of the stone used but to the ravages of time. The building was put up in the fourth century B.C. and typifies the building in the post-Constantine era when the Romans battled with the German tribes on the empire's frontier, the Rhine.

A few years ago it was discovered that the fortified gateway was two hundred years older than supposed. This reasoning was based on fresh digs at the imperial thermae built at Triers in the Diocletian-Constantine period. After the baths in Rome these were the third largest in the empire. In a building put up two hundred years before the imperial thermae two hundred years Before Christ the same squared sand stone with the same markings as the blocks used in the Porta Nigra were found. One hundred and fifty years after the Porta Nigra was no longer used for Church purposes – for 800 years the building was in ecclestiastial hands – Dr Erich Gose, a Triers archeologist and Professor Meyer-Plath from Hanover have been able to publish their co[…] analysis of the Porta Nigra.

Investigations of the Porta [...] revealed another discovery. Desp[ite the] monumental size the Porta Nigra w[...] all 144 windows with Roman a[...] the first and second floors in front [...] on "weak feet". Single stones [...] clamps, not mortar were used [...] building work. Some clamp[s ...] removed during post-Roman tim[es ...] iron was in short supply.

Furthermore the ravages of the [...] as well as air pollution, accord[ing ...] archeologists and custodians of [...] monuments have had an acce[...] effect. Barring traffic from the city [...] in late autumn 1971 did a great [...] being relief to the process of de[...]tion to Triers' other Roman monu[ments].

Outside restoration that kept [...] times the concept of the total buil[ding in] mind has involved far-reaching pr[...]

In particular a decaying and [...]

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Porta Nigra, Trier
(Photo: Laendesp[...])

Gast im Schloß venture goes from strength to strength

More than 1,650 beds are avail[able in] the beautifully located citadel[s and] castles that are included in the asso[ciation] Gast im Schloß.

The holidays available from [the] association include individual [...] holidays, for a weekend for instance [...] rented bungalows for a family [...] children or group tours that incl[ude a] visit to a discotheque in the to[rture] chamber.

Ten tours available for the 1973 s[eason] include short holidays and a 1[...] fly-and-drive tour from Frankfurt a[...] including seven castles south of the [...] for visitors from overseas.

During 1972 the members of the [Gast] im Schloß organisation had more th[an a] quarter of a million overnight boo[kings] of which 35 per cent were from over[seas] particularly from America and [the] Netherlands.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 5 Ma[y ...])

■ SPORT

Amateur boxing in Cologne

DIE WELT

Promising youngsters have grown few and far between in amateur boxing. At the 51st national championships in Cologne recently six titles were won by previous holders.

Gerd Schubert won his third title, Werner Schäfer his second, Renée Weller his second, Gunnar Münchow his second, Peter Spitzenberg his third and Peter Hussing his fifth.

The average age of this year's ten champions is, however, at 23 years 3 months surprisingly young. There would seem to be room for improvement.

The officials responsible, Helmut Meyer and Tomasz Lempart of the ABA in Frankfurt, have thus not yet abandoned hope. A number of the current title-holders have proved only too willing to undergo training designed to make them internationally competitive.

At six training centres either already in existence or under construction in Kaltenkirchen, near Hamburg, Duisburg, Hennef, Berlin, Sonthoften and Hildesheim or Wolfsburg the aim is to coach this country's amateur boxers until such time as they are in a position to compete with their opposite numbers in other countries on equal terms.

The gap has grown extremely wide, though. In the opinion of Roman L[...] of Warsaw, vice-president of the international amateur boxing federation, only two of the seven Federal Republic champions who will represent their country at the forthcoming European championships in Belgrade stand any chance of doing well.

These two are Peter Hussing, 24, of Mülheim and Günter Peters, 22, of Duisburg. "In all other weights there remains a great deal of work to do," fellow-Pole Lempart admits, giving the lie to attempts by other ABA officials to cast the championships in a more favourable light.

The preliminaries were undeniably feeble at times. Only the finals, for which 4,167 spectators filed through the turnstiles, were really worth the money, so to speak.

Peter Hussing won his fifth heavyweight title in a row, by a walkover this time, since his opponent Erich Seidl was unable to contest the final because of a mouth injury.

During the finals Hussing was thus able to hold discussions with the aim of reconciling participation in the European championships and his course of study at Hüttental-Weidenau college of further education.

ABA sport secretary Heinz Birkle was the man who had the bright idea. "Karlsruhe electrical engineer Theo Menkhaus will coach Hussing to ensure that he does not fall behind with his studies." The Sports Aid Foundation will foot the bill.

As is customary at national championships, the showing of individual Federal states was compiled and contrasted. The Lower Rhine region came in well ahead of the opposition with four titles and four runners-up. The 49 points this feat was worth in the league stakes won Lower Rhine the Georg Dietrich Cup against opposition from Bavaria, Baden and Berlin.

Claus Mittenzwei
(Die Welt, 7 May 1973)

Winner Albert Dölken at the Cologne boxing championships
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Call for national league for soccer colts

Following next year's World Cup a junior Federal league must be launched in association football, FA coach Herbert Widmayer maintains.

"The move can no longer be postponed," he says. "We must pay greater attention to our youngsters than in the past if we are to keep pace with other sports associations."

The Football Association has plans at the ready at its Frankfurt head offices, but so far nothing has come of them because of the poor financial position of the clubs who would have to bear the brunt.

"Juniors must be given tougher nuts to crack, then an even stronger team could represent this country in UEFA tournaments." UEFA is the European Union of Football Associations.

A number of clubs have pressed ahead with youth work for years. Schalke 04, Kickers Offenbach, MSV Duisburg, Hanoover 96, VfB Stuttgart, Hamburg SV, Eintracht Frankfurt and Werder Bremen could enter teams for a Federal junior league at the drop of a hat.

"We intend to stage junior fixtures prior to Federal league games in order to provide an incentive," says Eckart Kleemann, manager of Hanover 96 with next season in mind.

Federal league club boards well realise that coaching your own youngsters is by far the least expensive way of finding reinforcements for the senior side. Schalke and Hamburg have set great store by their juniors for many years.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 April 1973)

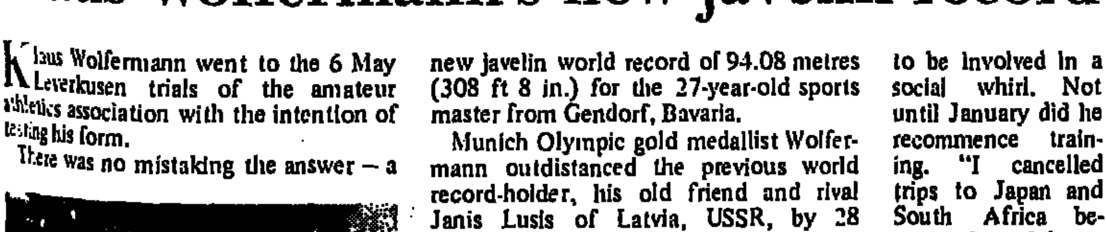
Continued from page 14

"wooden staircase" with 120 steps that had become dangerous was replaced with a modern concrete spiral staircase.

The fact that the Porta Nigra has stood for almost two thousands years in fairly good repair as few other buildings dating back from antiquity can, can be laid to the credit of a monk and a bishop.

The Greek hermit Simeon lived for seven years in a cell in the Porta Nigra. He accompanied his friend Archbishop Poppo on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. After His death in 1035 his friend extend the hermitage into a church including the entire gateway. The church that was built in the eleventh century stood for eight hundred years. Napoleon ordered the church to be pulled down and the King of Prussia completed the work in 1817.

Herbert Pitzer
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 26 April 1973)



Klaus Wolfermann's new javelin record

Klaus Wolfermann went to the 6 May Leverkusen trials of the amateur athletics association with the intention of testing his form.

There was no mistaking the answer – a new javelin world record of 94.08 metres (308 ft 8 in.) for the 27-year-old sports master from Gendorf, Bavaria.

Munich Olympic gold medallist Wolfermann outdistanced the previous world record-holder, his old friend and rival Janis Lusis of Latvia, USSR, by 28 centimetres (eleven inches).

He improved on his own national record, set up in Munich, by no less than 3.60 metres (11 ft 9 in.).

After being congratulated by friends and admirers and kissed by his wife and children Wolfermann admitted that "I had never dreamt of hitting the headlines like this."

He set up his world record at the second attempt in the face of gusts of wind. Wolfermann proved that the throw was not a freak by following it up with a further 89.84 metres.

Hans Schenk, one-time javelin champion and AAA coach, reckons the Olympic gold medallist is capable of even greater distances. "In ideal conditions he ought to manage two to three metres more. What he now needs is tough competition."

The new world record will be acknowledged without difficulty. When Wolfermann's javelin was weighed in after the event it was found to be twelve grammes (half an ounce) heavier than it need have been.

This appearance at Manfort stadium, Leverkusen, was Wolfermann's first since the Olympics. For months he has seemed to be involved in a social whirl. Not until January did he recommence training. "I cancelled trips to Japan and South Africa because they did not fit into my training-schedule," the world recordholder comments. After the event Wolfermann reckoned that he had only been thinking in terms of between 83 and 85 metres, "but then everything went right – the run-up, the angle, and the javelin just glided through the air as though it were on a cushion." Wolfermann is now confident of doing well in his forthcoming duels with rival Janis Lusis of the Soviet Union, encounters in Leningrad on 16 and 17 June and in Munich a week later.

Hans Friedrich Teuchert
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 May 1973)

Klaus Wolfermann
(Photo: Horstmüller)



Russian fencing victory

Russian fencer Modzalevski making an unusual win against Hehn from Tauberbischofsheim at the European Cup championships at Heidenheim
(Photo: dpa)